



Center Harbor Energy Committee Town of Center Harbor, Post Office Box 140, New Hampshire 03226 USA

13 February 2009

State Representative Naida Kaen
Chair, Committee on Science, Technology and Energy
Legislative Office Building – Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Kaen,

The Center Harbor Energy Committee wishes to convey to you and your Committee our strong support for HB 585, the Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Act.

We believe this bill would reinforce your Committee's commendable efforts to encourage energy conservation by municipalities as well as our state government, New Hampshire's largest consumer of energy.

By making possible a "partial-night" service for streetlighting, HB 585 provides an important new opportunity for cost savings by local governments with greater flexibility than the more drastic alternative of simply removing or turning off streetlights – with possible compromise of safety and security.

By requiring utilities to offer fully-shielded, dark-sky friendly lighting as the default option for streetlighting, HB 585 provides useful guidance to local governments that may not be aware of the benefits of such lighting, while not intruding into local prerogatives.

The Center Harbor Energy Committee strongly endorses the adoption of a state policy that calls for protecting the dark, starlight skies that form a crucial part of the rural and scenic character of New Hampshire. As a Lakes Region town that depends on tourism, we understand dark skies are not merely aesthetically appealing but have a tangible economic value.

We hope that your Committee agrees that HB 585 offers significant economic benefits at no apparent cost, and urge your swift approval of this bill.

Sincerely,

Co-chairmen, Steven Caney and Christopher Williams
Center Harbor Energy Committee