



05/14/2024

To: State Building Inspector Omarys Vasquez and Members of the Codes Amendments Subcommittee:

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Re: Support for four Light Pollution Reduction CCPs to the International Building Code: **Chapter 27**

Code Change Proposal 25-017 – Setting Maximum Color Temperature at 3000K

Code Change Proposal 25-021 – Limit exemption for unshielded low-voltage outdoor lights used for water features

Code Change Proposal 25-032 – Eliminate shielding exemptions for landscape & facade lighting

Code Change Proposal 25-043 – Reduce shielding exception from 2,600 lumen output to output not greater than 1000 lumen

We respectfully encourage the Codes Amendments Subcommittee members to approve the four Code Change Proposals listed above in order to reduce light pollution and its harmful effects on Connecticut's wildlife.

House Bill 6607 (now Public Act No. 23-143) was a top priority for CTLCV in 2023 and we are anxious to see the bill implemented to protect our migratory birds and wildlife.

Unnecessary light pollution wastes energy, results in unnecessary additional carbon emissions, negatively impacts Connecticut's ambient environment, and creates hazards for wildlife and human health.

The majority of Connecticut's species are nocturnal and lighting strongly disrupts navigation, foraging, mating and migration. Light pollution negatively impacts pollinators such as bats, beetles, bees, and other insects.

Migratory birds and nocturnal pollinators use natural light from the stars and moon to navigate through the night sky. Unnecessary light causes these species to become confused and trapped.

Light pollution from artificial nighttime lights can be safely and effectively reduced or eliminated with new control technologies and products that will not impose any financial hardships on property owners or developers.

Moreover, it's been almost two decades since the implementation of our existing Light Pollution Control standards in 2004 under the Connecticut State Building Code, a time predating the widespread use of LED lighting. **Connecticut needs to address excessive light pollution related to LED technology.**

CTLCV joins our colleagues – Connecticut Audubon, DarkSky CT, Lights Out CT, Sierra Club CT and many others - in supporting these code change proposals to bring consistency to our State Building Code in line with the best practices nationally on light pollution.

We respectfully urge the members of the Codes Amendments Subcommittee to adopt these four Code Change Proposals as a first step in reducing unnecessary light pollution in Connecticut to protect our wildlife.

Thank you for considering these comments.

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