

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF HB 6607 AAC THE NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS.

February 14, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of HB 6607** that seeks to address a major wildlife problem affecting migratory birds.

"Light Pollution" caused by artificial lights and sky glow around buildings can be fatal to migrating birds. It currently impacts hundreds of species.

Light pollution can cause birds to have fatal nighttime collisions with windows and walls, or cause them to circle in confusion until dawn when they are subjected to other urban threats. Most birds in North America migrate at night, making it imperative to limit artificial light pollution to help protect them along their journey.

HB 6607 is a step in the right direction and can help reduce bird mortality by reducing unnecessary lighting. Nighttime lighting restrictions should be broad in scope and should include a public education component that emphasizes the installation of lighting only when and where it is needed, the use of timers, and the importance of shining light downward. Dousing lights has the added benefit of reducing energy use and saving money

Nighttime lighting is harming wildlife and we need to use the least light, all year, for all species.

CTLCV asks that you make the provisions year round.

Follow the QR code or link to CTLCV's <u>Briefing Paper</u> on the problem and solutions to Light Pollution:



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