

My name is Lisa Caprioglio. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 405 Development of Outdoor Lighting Standards.

Thank you, Senator Smith, for sponsoring this bill. Excessively bright white lights on Long Branch Trail have negatively impacted my life every night since they were installed in January 2022.

The new LED lights were ten times brighter than recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society and the color temperature was significantly whiter than the recommended 2200 Kelvin.

I could not sleep. The lights disrupt my body's circadian rhythms. There is awareness of the effects of phone screens on sleep. The park lights are an order of magnitude brighter than phones.

I contacted Montgomery Parks requesting a change and they emailed this response: "The recent upgrades of the lights are part of our routine maintenance efforts, and the lighting is a type used throughout our park system. The lighting is directed towards the trail in accordance with Parks' installation practices, and our staff has determined the lighting is appropriate for the need it serves. With these considerations in mind, the lights will not be altered."

This is not limited to Montgomery Parks. New lights on the Carroll Avenue Bridge over Sligo Creek are bright white. New lights on Park Valley Bridge over Sligo Creek are bright white.

This underscores the need for SB 405. Existing rules on outdoor lighting do not take current scientific standards into account. Staff with no special training make decisions regarding public health. Science must take precedence over intuition. I request a favorable report on SB 405.