

Submitter: Marissa Theve
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3202

Dear Legislators,

Please support House Bill 3202, which seeks to mitigate the detrimental effects of light pollution on our environment.

House Bill 3202 builds on what other states have already done. This simple bill will help protect migratory birds as well as help ensure a vibrant ecosystem that benefits humans too.

Protecting our night skies while we still have them is easier than trying to restore them once they are gone. Southeastern OR has the darkest skies in the country. This is an asset is a byproduct of our progressive land use planning and it is our duty to enhance this feature for all Oregonians, including wildlife.

In Salem, our second largest city, where state land policy disproportionately affects residents because of the amount of state land acres maintained within the City, this bill is a matter of livability. Light pollution has been shown to damage our nervous systems and reduce sleep quantity and quality. The City of Salem still has a way to go to do the best it can on the issue of light pollution, but the State has this opportunity to lead the way by example and reduce light pollution in the Valley.

If you picture the entire state, the light pollution emanating from the Valley prevents many from being able to star gaze until as far east as beyond Bend. I encourage you to do what's right and start addressing light pollution on a statewide level. This may be the easiest and most cost-effective environmental win you have ever supported.

From:
Marissa
Salem in Marion County