

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Light the Way, Not the Sky

As it has been around for a while and coming up more and more, the issue of light pollution seems to be noticed by more people, which is great. We shouldn't only be concerned about turning our lights off when there is an energy price increase, but I think we should be more respectful towards the general communities by restricting the light emission upward, where it 1) takes away the beauty of a dark sky for everyone, especially the ones that had not had the privilege to enjoy it a few times, 2) is not needed, 3) is a waste of energy, and 4) has economic repercussions, since, as a state, communities pay the price (as for everything else).

There have been a few bills that have been taken before our local government, but, after passing the senate votes, have either been vetoed by the governor (2003) or have been taken to a stale position where nobody bothered to follow up.

I know that the Town of Branford adapted regulations that are slowly being taken into consideration, as for example, the parking lot at the theater. They replaced all the lights to point where it is needed: on the ground and dispersing maybe five percent upward. I think that should be the limit in the amount of light dispersed upward.

For the past couple of weeks, I have posted an online petition at www.pascarellas.com/petition.aspx against light pollution and I am collecting signatures to possibly bring this issue back onto the decisions table. I think we owe it to East Haven to voice this concern.

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