

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Fish, Saltzman, Fritz, and Eudaly:

As a member of the Rose City Astronomers (RCA), a non-profit, amateur astronomy organization of about 600 members in the Portland Metro Area, I am writing to thank you for your recent support in considering measures to combat light pollution. Light pollution is growing at an alarming rate, and it continues to erode our cultural heritage of dark skies. I strongly urge you to provide staff funding for developing city-wide lighting standards to reduce, and ideally to reverse light pollution levels within the City.

Portland's skyglow from light pollution has grown over the years. Dark sky havens just outside the city have been eradicated, and dark skies within a 2 hour drive of Portland are being threatened by Portland's lighting choices. This trend is expected to continue if the City does not develop and enforce sustainable lighting standards. Well-meaning policies have not been effective at addressing light pollution, as exemplified by new developments (e.g., the Fair-hair Dumbbell Building, Tillicum Bridge) and by lighting design choices at existing government-run facilities (e.g., Oregon Convention Center spires, City street lights). New developments continue to go up around the city that defy the basic standards for addressing light pollution, as developed by the International Darksky Association (IDA).

The City of Portland has built a solid reputation of being a "green city" with a pulse on sustainability. Combatting light pollution not only complies with the City's green policies, it further assures their efficacy. Therefore, I once again urge City Council to fund the development of city-wide lighting standards and to maintain our national leadership in sustainability, which includes dark sky preservation.

Sincerely,

RCA Member

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