

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman
Members, House Environmental Matters Committee
The Honorable Alfred C. Carr

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 8, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 906 – *Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, support House Bill 906.

This legislation provides specific requirements and limitations on the type and location of street lighting. It is intended to address “light pollution” which has been found to create both health and safety concerns for the public, especially vision-impaired and elderly drivers. Furthermore, the lighting specified in House Bill 906 will utilize less energy and generate less greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted H-135.937 – *Advocating and Support for Light Pollution Control Efforts and Glare Reduction for Both Public Safety and Energy Savings*. That Resolution is attached for the Committee’s consideration. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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H-135.937 Advocating and Support for Light Pollution Control Efforts and Glare Reduction for Both Public Safety and Energy Savings

H-135.937 Advocating and Support for Light Pollution Control Efforts and Glare Reduction for Both Public Safety and Energy Savings

Our AMA: (1) will advocate that all future outdoor lighting be of energy efficient designs to reduce waste of energy and production of greenhouse gasses that result from this wasted energy use; (2) supports light pollution reduction efforts and glare reduction efforts at both the national and state levels; and (3) supports efforts to ensure all future streetlights be of a fully shielded design or similar non-glare design to improve the safety of our roadways for all, but especially vision impaired and older drivers. (Res. 516, A-09)