



COCHISE SKIES
OBSERVATORY

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Cochise County
Board of Supervisors
1415 Melody Lane
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Dear Supervisors Call, English, and Searle:

I am writing you as past president of the Astronomical League and the International Dark-Sky Association in support of the planned revisions to the Cochise County Lighting Code. On August 13, the planning and zoning commission unanimously approved the much needed changes to the county's lighting code, and we appreciate this decision. We strongly urge you to approve this code update.

This update is important for several reasons. It puts reasonable limits on the brightness of digital signs, while not prohibiting them entirely. While 42 percent of county residents who participated in a recent survey would like digital signs banned completely, the code update allows a reasonable approach. Also, many new commercial grade LED street, area, and parking lot lights have been too bright and glary. This code update sets a sound level for correlated color temperature (CCT) that is readily available. Monrad Engineering in Tucson has provided detailed technical information on why this CCT limit is critical. Again, we encourage you to approve the update as it is presented.

Protecting night skies is not only for astronomers. Everyone benefits from better safety through reduced glare, we save energy from better design, we protect wildlife and human health, and finally, we preserve our world-class night skies. It's no wonder so many people move to Cochise County just to enjoy these night skies.

We need to do all we can to protect our spectacular night skies. We strongly support strengthening the county's light pollution code and establishing strict prohibitions on all digital devices that unnecessarily contribute to sky glow, produce glare, or commit light trespass.

Thank you for helping protect our valuable resource -- the magnificent night sky.

Sincerely,

Bob Gent
Thank you!!