

From: "Howard, William" <whoward3@pima.edu>
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To: "pcall@cochise.az.gov" <pcall@cochise.az.gov>, "aenglish@cochise.az.gov" <aenglish@cochise.az.gov>, "rsearle@cochise.az.gov" <rsearle@cochise.az.gov>
Cc: "Zellerbach, Katherine (KatherineZ@longrealty.com)" <KatherineZ@longrealty.com>, "RL Gent (RLGent@cox.net)" <RLGent@cox.net>, "toad730@aol.com" <toad730@aol.com>
Subject: Cochise County Lighting Code Revisions

Good afternoon –

I understand that Cochise County Board of Supervisors will be considering approval of a revised lighting code for Cochise County next Tuesday at your meeting in Bisbee. If I was able to attend the meeting in person, I would certainly ask to speak in favor of adopting these revisions, updates that are badly needed to secure the beauty of our wonderful dark skies. Unfortunately I am unable to attend in person as I work in Tucson so I am writing to ask that you give serious thought to acting now on this matter to preserve as much as possible the rural nature of our county for future generations.

I live near the mouth of Ramsey Canyon and thoroughly enjoy amateur astronomy as does my wife and several of our neighbors. As I'm sure you are aware, southern Arizona is remarkable for its clear, dry, generally dark night air, which naturally attracts many astronomers, naturalists, birders and other outdoor enthusiasts. From my backyard, my wife and I can literally see billions of stars in nebulae, galaxies, clusters, etc. when looking at the majority of the night sky. Anything to the northeast, however, is virtually lost to the glare of Sierra Vista's lights. I recognize that there are competing interests at work here and that some form of compromise is necessary to provide the most good for the greatest number of residents. The code update that you will be discussing and hopefully approving Tuesday is just such a compromise and was approved unanimously by the planning commission last month following much testimony and deliberation. It represents a lighting code with which we can all live – outdoor types and business types together. I urge you to support the planning commission's recommended changes to the lighting code, approve the amendments and help preserve the beauty of one of our most precious natural resources – the wonderful night sky.

Respectfully,

William J. Howard
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Services
Pima Community College
4905 East Broadway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85709-1205
william.howard@pima.edu
520-206-4568 tel.

1077 East Ramsey Canyon Road
Hereford, AZ 85615
(520) 678 - 0284