



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

DATE SUBMITTED: APRIL 12 2024

CODE INFORMATION

Proposed change to: [X] Building Code [ ] Fire Safety Code

Code section(s): 2021 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE - CHAPTER 27 – ELECTRICAL - SECTION 2703 LIGHT POLLUTION CONTROLS - Change to Exception 2

PROPONENT INFORMATION

Name: Tanya Bourgoin Representing: SIERRA CLUB - CT CHAPTER
Telephone: 860-304-2331 Email: tabourgoin@gmail.com
Address: 23 Honey Hill Rd East Haddam CT 06423

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Description of change and reason for change (attach additional information as needed):

A wide variety of affordable and attractive shielded landscape lighting products for commercial and industrial uses are available.

Proposed text change, addition or deletion (attach additional information as needed):

follows: Luminaries intended to illuminate the facade of buildings or to illuminate other objects including, but not limited to, flagpoles, landscape and water features, statuary and works of art

Supporting data and documents (attach additional information as needed)

- [X] This Proposal is original material. (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter’s own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)
[ ] This Comment is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows: (such as material / code development proposal from a prior development cycle or proposal submitted to model code committee etc.)

[X] I would like to make an in-person presentation of my proposal.

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Handwritten signature of Tanya Bourgoin

Proponent’s Signature

TANYA BOURGOIN
Printed Name

PLEASE EMAIL (PREFERRED) TO DAS.CodesStandards@CT.GOV OR MAIL OR FAX (SEE BELOW)

Department of Administrative Services
Office of the State Building Inspector
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1303
Hartford, CT 06103
Tel: 860-713-5900 Fax: 860-713-7410
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**Description of Change, and Reason for Change 2021 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE -**

**CHAPTER 27 – ELECTRICAL - Section 2703.1 - Light Pollution Controls**

**Current language:** The second exception to Section 2703.1 states “2. Luminaires intended to illuminate ~~the façade of buildings or to illuminate other~~ objects including, but not limited to, flagpoles, ~~landscape and water features~~, statuary and works of art.”

**Proposed Code Change:** Delete facade, landscape and water features

**Proposed Deletion:** Delete ~~the façade of buildings or to illuminate other~~ and ~~landscape and water features~~

**Proposed Addition:** None

**REASON FOR CHANGE:** Eliminating shielding exemptions for facade lighting and landscape lighting will reduce light pollution levels in Connecticut, which in turn will reduce energy waste, improve bird migration, reduce bird deaths and help towards restoring the dark night environment upon which many species depend. Reduction in light pollution is a small yet important contribution towards efforts to fight climate change. Each year the wasted energy from light pollution is enough to power an estimated 34 million homes annually.

Many animals rely on darkness as part of their habitat and behavior, and artificial light at night (ALAN) can disrupt their natural cycles. Lighting used in landscaping creates nighttime lighting conditions that adversely impacts nocturnal animals and migratory birds. Most species of North American migratory birds are in steep decline, experiencing significant population loss linked with loss of habitat, building collisions, and light pollution. It is estimated that every year nearly one billion birds are killed in building collisions in the United States, commonly associated with light pollution that lures migratory birds into unsafe urban/suburban areas.

The wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, and other flora used in landscape design in Connecticut provide habitat for a broad range of fauna species in Connecticut. Most notably, birds and insects dwell and find food sources in many flora commonly used in landscaping. Several bird species protected under federal and state laws, including species of concern and endangered species such as the Northern Parula and Bicknell's Thrush, shelter in flora

popularly used in landscaping, such as oak trees, cherry trees, maple trees, conifers, and shrubs like hydrangea and rhododendron, including during periods of peak bird migration. Popular water features used in landscaping, such as ponds, streams, fountains, and bird baths, are also important sites for wildlife to access hydration and sanitation, especially in hot, dry summer months.

Most traditional landscaping projects have not addressed the needs of wildlife, although all wildlife have a need food, shelter, water, and space, including natural cycles of daylight and darkness.