

July 21, 2015

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Dear Mayor Bouley and Concord City Council Members,

It was with great concern and trepidation that I read the article in the Concord Monitor about vastly increased lighting in the downtown area.

We have lived in the Greater Concord area for over 40 years. When we first arrived, we often enjoyed viewing the stars, constellations, shooting stars and even on occasion, the northern lights. Now it is a rarity to even view the Milky Way! What a difference 40 years has made in our ability to see the stars! The glare from many kinds of lights makes it impossible to see as much as in past years.

If you are not familiar with the nationwide dark skies initiative, please look it up sometime soon. The idea is to encourage a reduction in light glare so that we can once again enjoy our night skies. Your planned lighting changes will definitely not help to reduce glare. I ask that you please reconsider the new lighting plans for something that will reduce glare. There are many options that can be chosen from companies that are glad to help increase our dark skies.

As to Steve Duprey's plans to light up the city; I am appalled! Massive colored lights and increased intensity lighting will give us a more carnival atmosphere, not that of the state capitol. I am disappointed that he would even suggest such terrible lighting plans. Not only will it all look very garish, it will increase energy costs dramatically. Also, in these days when we should be more energy conscious and aware that such energy produced by our local coal plant will only add to the toxic pollution in the air, we should be more conservative in its use. Obviously, Mr. Duprey has done many positive things in the past for Concord and its residents, but this massive lighting plan is really ill conceived.

Another consideration: I have read that even computer lights can disrupt regular sleep patterns. If the increased lighting takes place, people for miles around will have much more glare coming in their windows at night. I am fortunate that we do not even have street lights where we live. They are not necessary, and I greatly appreciate the darkened nights for sleeping.

I realize that the main article for discussion this week is the fountain on which I have a mixed opinion. It would be beautiful and relaxing but at what cost for the outlay and ongoing maintenance? If I had a vote, it would likely be negative.

I entreat you to look again at the lighting plans and opt for dark skies systems not glaring ones.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Rauter". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Mrs. Linda Rauter

51 Canterbury Rd.

Chichester, N.H. 03258

(Obviously not presently a Concord resident, but Concord has been our "center" for over 40 years. We love the area, and will be affected, as will many others, with the decisions you make.)