



January 25, 2022

BY EMAIL

James Shea, City Solicitor
Baltimore, Maryland
james.shea@baltimorecity.gov

Re: The LED Fraud

Dear James Shea,

Utility companies have made the fraudulent claim that LEDs are energy efficient. By committing this fraud, the utility companies have convinced cities across America to switch to LED streetlights with the promise of saving energy. LEDs do not save energy; instead, they emit a toxic, hazardous, discriminatory substance that is making Americans agitated and angry, increasing violence, causing epileptic seizures, migraines, panic attacks and eye damage.

- 1) An incandescent light bulb and a High-Pressure Sodium lamp provide the service of uniform illumination. LEDs and laser beams provide a service of high intensity light beams. Because the two services are entirely different, an energy efficiency comparison cannot be made between the two types of products.¹
- 2) Per the story in NPR on Baltimore's climate change lawsuit, "*Baltimore is asking state courts to weigh in on what Sokol calls a 'long-standing, systematic deceptive marketing campaign designed to hide the catastrophic dangers,' of fossil fuels.*"² The utility companies preyed on the city's desire to reduce energy use. The utility companies earned millions of dollars by fraudulently claiming that LEDs are energy efficient when that statement is not true.
- 3) The results of the LED fraud are wasted taxpayer dollars, no improvement in climate change goals, a massive increase in the number of light emitters, and an increase in mood disorders, premature births, violence, loss of sleep, anger, agitation, seizures, migraines, emotional trauma, and short-term and long-term eye damage.
- 4) The city of Baltimore makes this same fraudulent claim that LEDs are energy efficient.³ If the city is making this claim on their own, then the city is liable for the economic, environmental, and human damage caused by LEDs. However, if this claim is based on the information provided by the utility company, then Baltimore can hold the utility company liable.

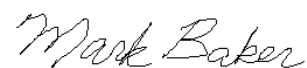
¹ https://www.energystar.gov/about/about_energy_efficiency

² <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/25/1075560742/oil-lawsuit-climate-change-baltimore>

³ <https://transportation.baltimorecity.gov/bmorebright>

We are including our report titled, The LED Fraud which contains more details and references to source material. The damage being caused by LED lights is similar in scope to the damage being caused by climate change but with more immediate impact. The city of Baltimore must take quick, decisive action to solve the LED crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Baker
President
Soft Lights Foundation
mbaker@softlights.org