The Commonwealth of Massachusetts MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR JO COMERFORD Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District

> State House, Room 413C Boston, MA 02133-1053 Tel. (617) 722-1532 www.MAsenate.gov

May 13, 2022

Frederick S. James, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration U.S. Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Room Number N3626 Washington, D.C. 20210

Re: Regulation of LED Flashing Lights

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary James,

I write at the urging of my constituents in western Massachusetts about the need to regulate LED flashing lights because of the impact they have on people who have become sick and experienced life-threatening neurological reactions to LED lighting.

My understanding is that OSHA has not issued safety regulations on LED flashing lights. However, according to the manufacturers of LED flashing lights, these devices can be dangerous. Below is an example of a warning from Whelen Engineering, the maker of LED flashing lights for police vehicles.

IMPORTANT WARNING!

CAUTION! DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THESE LED'S WHILE THEY ARE ON. MOMENTARY BLINDNESS AND/OR EYE DAMAGE COULD RESULT!

Given the dangers from LED flashing lights, my constituents had the following questions:

- 1. What needs to be done for OSHA to create safety regulations for LED flashing lights?
- 2. Will OSHA work with the US Access Board to develop guidelines to protect LED light-disabled people from the discriminatory nature of LED flashing lights?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions.

Sincerely,

Jo Comerford State Senator Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester district

[1] https://www.respondersafety.com/Download.aspx?DownloadId=f31a5f73-7b95-44c7-bd25-1e4cdfce5229

Chair Joint Committee on Public Health

Chair Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management

^[2] https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.17175