

Mark Baker

Education

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1987.

Soft Lights Foundation

I am the founder and president of the Soft Lights Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit registered in the state of Oregon. The Soft Lights Foundation is one of the world's leading advocacy groups for the protection of people from the harms of Visible Light radiation emitted by Light Emitting Diodes and for the protection of the natural night as a resource.

Technical Papers

Food and Drug Administration - The FDA is the agency mandated by Congress to protect citizens from the Visible Light electromagnetic radiation from Light Emitting Diodes. I authored and submitted a citizen petition to the FDA through the federal regulatory process to regulate LED products.¹

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - NHTSA regulations for vehicle headlights, FMVSS-108, are inadequate for LED headlights and vehicles with LED headlights are non-compliant with federal safety regulations. I authored and submitted multiple citizen petitions to NHTSA.^{2,3,4}

Department of Energy – The DOE has falsely claimed that the light from LEDs and the light from incandescent light bulbs have the same characteristics and that there are no known health effects from LED light. I authored and submitted a citizen petition to the DOE to repeal the DOE's effective ban on the incandescent light bulb.⁵

Federal Trade Commission – I authored a citizen petition to the FDA to place the metric 'luminance' on product packaging for products that use LEDs.⁶

Access Board – I authored multiple citizen petitions to the Access Board to protect individuals with disabilities from LED Visible Light radiation.^{7,8}

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FDA-2022-P-1151-0001>

² <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NHTSA-Petition-to-Require-Inverse-Square-LawLamps.pdf>

³ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NHTSA-LED-Headlight-Interpretation-Request.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/NHTSA-Jeep-Grand-Wagoneer-.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Combined-DOE-Petition.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Petition-to-Publish-Luminance.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Access-Board-Petition-to-Collaborate-with-FDA-1.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Access-Board-Petition-Amend-Rule-ATBCB-2011-0004.pdf>

LED Physics - I am the primary author of a primer on the differences between a curved surface emitter and a flat surface emitter. My co-authors include subject matter experts in the fields of physics, engineering, medicine, and light pollution.⁹

Committees

I am a member of an LED Headlight Dazzle Committee chaired by Baroness Dianne Hayter, House of Lords, UK that is working to solve the LED headlight glare problem.

Expert Witness

February 2024 – I testified in a light trespass nuisance case involving a car dealership and a homeowner in Iowa.

Lawsuits

January 22, 2024 – Baker vs. Food and Drug Administration - http://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Mark-Baker-vs.-FDA_filed.pdf

December 14, 2023 – Baker vs. Fairfield, CA - https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Baker-v.-Fairfield_Filed.pdf

October 21, 2022 – Baker vs. Ashland, OR - http://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Ashland-ADA-Meeting_Case-22CV36402.pdf

Media Coverage

January 31, 2024 – Inside Lighting - <https://inside.lighting/news/24-01/5-big-questions-mark-bakers-push-led-regulation>

January 29, 2024 – Inside Lighting - <https://inside.lighting/news/24-01/fda-sued-over-led-safety-standards>

December 11, 2023 – Newsday - <https://archive.is/uyGOq>

September 19, 2023 – Herald Bulletin - https://web.archive.org/web/20230922080715/https://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/advocacy-group-attempts-to-halt-markleville-led-project/article_c6d57652-5636-11ee-a9fe-17dd94809c3b.html

August 28, 2023 - Get A Grip on Lighting - <https://getagriponlighting.com/episode-323-are-leds-harmful-mark-baker>

April 15, 2023 - ABC6 Philadelphia - <https://6abc.com/blinding-headlights-bright-lights-while-driving-soft-foundation/13118607/>

February 25, 2023 - The Hill - <https://thehill.com/homenews/3806947-are-headlights-brighter-than-they-used-to-be/>

⁹ https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Curved-Versus-Flat_American.pdf

January 13, 2023 - Times Colonist -

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230113173358/https://www.timescolonist.com/driving/john-ducker-the-fight-to-ban-dazzle-headlights-6362274>

November 28, 2022 - Clean Technica - <https://cleantechnica.com/2022/11/28/some-environmentalhealth-activists-are-on-a-mission-to-reform-checks-notes-led-lighting/>

November 5, 2022 - Ashland News - <https://ashland.news/local-activist-sues-city-of-ashland-overflashing-leds/>

August 22, 2022 - RTO Insider - <https://www.rtoinsider.com/articles/30680-nev-petition-seeks-haltutility-installation-led-streetlights>

April 17, 2022 - Post Star - https://poststar.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-negative-effects-ofled-lighting/article_dc225b6c-ba7c-11ec-9613-f70ce9f0e188.html

November 4, 2021 - Daily Nexus - <https://dailynexus.com/2021-11-04/munger-responds-to-architecturecriticism-ucsb-stands-by-design/>

June 6, 2021 - New York Times - <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/05/business/led-hid-headlightsblinding.html>

Contact

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