

November 24, 2024

BY EMAIL

Kathy Hochul, Governor
New York
ivan.acosta@exec.ny.gov

Re: The LED Fraud

Dear Governor Hochul,

On November 21, 2024, well respected researcher and professor Dr. Martin Moore-Ede of Harvard Medical School confirmed what the Soft Lights Foundation has been stating for several years: LEDs are not energy efficient. Here is the quote from Dr. Moore-Ede: *“Most government regulators at the Department of Energy are so obsessed with increasing lumens per watt. a false measure of energy efficiency, that they have banned low-blue incandescent & halogen lights, ...”*¹

Energy efficiency is defined as producing the same result using less energy. An incandescent light bulb emits visible light and infrared light. Most LED products do not emit infrared light, and therefore an LED light bulb does not produce the same result as an incandescent light bulb, and therefore an energy efficiency claim simply cannot be made.

The US Department of Energy states that LEDs are a “radically new technology” that emit a “directional” light with “unique characteristics”.² It is the directional nature of LEDs and their unique characteristics that make LEDs unsuitable for most lighting applications because of the dangerous conditions and discriminatory barriers that LED lights create.

The switch to LEDs began when Congress directed the US Department of Energy to develop an energy-efficient version of the incandescent light bulb using solid state technology.³ However, instead of developing an LED light bulb that produced the same result as an incandescent light bulb, the DOE developed LED lighting that contains little or no red light, no infrared light, emits a directional light with spatial non-uniformity, has a piecewise spectral power distribution with extreme levels of hazardous blue wavelength light, and has digital flicker. The DOE then lied to Congress by stating that the new LED product is an energy-efficient version of the incandescent light bulb. This is fraud.

¹ <https://lightdoctormartinmooreede.substack.com/p/how-to-start-a-healthy-lighting-campaign>

² https://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/ssl/ssl_lessons-learned_2014.pdf

³ <https://www.congress.gov/109/plaws/publ58/PLAW-109publ58.pdf>

We now know that LEDs emit hazardous and dangerous light. LED streetlights are carcinogenic and trigger seizures. LED vehicle headlights create dangerous glare and are a photobiological hazard. LED flashing lights on emergency vehicles impair vision and cognitive functioning and create discriminatory barriers for individuals with disabilities.

The Soft Lights Foundation is working directly with the New York State Legislature on the LED issue. We expect that the Legislature will be sending laws related to LED lights for you to sign in 2025. The Soft Lights Foundation is also engaged with multiple state agencies in New York, and we are aware of the many administrative actions involving LED lights in New York. Because of our experience across the country on the issue of LED lights, we believe that New York is poised to become ground zero in the fight to expose the LED fraud and the effort to eliminate these hazardous, dangerous, and discriminatory devices.

The public is fed up with being lied to about LEDs and the fraudulent claim of energy efficiency. The public does not like LED lights, and the public can feel that LED is a low-quality light that is adversely impacting their mood and their health. The public wants to be told the truth. Given all the legislative and administrative involvement in New York related to addressing the debilitating impacts of LED lights, the Soft Lights Foundation is offering to assist your office with filing False Claims Act lawsuits against companies such as Acuity Brands and National Grid and against the US Department of Energy for falsely claiming that LEDs are energy efficient and defrauding the State of New York.

Please have a staff member contact me.

Sincerely,
/s/ Mark Baker
President
Soft Lights Foundation
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