

Dear Granite City Electric,

My name is Richie Fahey and I am 11 years old. I live in Halifax, Massachusetts and I love to play baseball. I have one older sister who's helping me write this, Danielle who is almost 13 years old, and she plays softball. My family is involved with the recreation department and both my parents have been coaches for the softball/baseball leagues. I think that the fields behind my elementary school should receive a lighting system for one of our fields. There are many reasons I think that we deserve lights but here is one. Lights in our field would make the difference in some games, especially for my team. If we had a lighting system then we may still have been in the playoffs. One of our last games we had a game at 6:30. It was probably around 7:30 and my team was losing 11-9, but because it was so dark on the field you could barely see the ball, we were forced to stop the game. We lost the game and then we weren't eligible for playoffs and now our season is over. Another reason we would love to have lights is because every year my sister's all-star softball team and all the other all-star Halifax softball teams host a tournament called Summer Smash. They've been doing this tournament for three years, and this August will be their fourth year. Pete Barone, the runner of the whole tournament had to turn down teams this year, simply because they're not enough hours in the day for all the teams to play. If lights were donated that would mean that there could be night games, and that means more teams would be able to participate in the tournament. With more teams, that means we would earn more money for the league, and that extra money could go a long way. Lights would also be sick to have because like my dad says, "The politics in this town do nothing to improve the recreation program." I didn't get what this meant at first until he explained it to me and my sister. He told us that it meant that the people who are in charge of running our town don't donate any money to the sports programs, we don't get a yearly fund to fix up the fields, and that everything done for the baseball fields is done completely by volunteers. In fact, people have been trying for years to get bathrooms installed down behind the school, but we can't even get money for that, so we definitely wouldn't receive money to get something as sweet as lights put in. Also lights would be so cool for kids to play with. I know that the game would be so much more enjoyable if people got to play under the lights. Instead of thinking darn, I don't wanna go play baseball tonight, it's just gonna get too dark and I'm gonna get eaten by mosquitoes, you'll be like wow, this is so cool I feel like David Ortiz or Jenny Finch playing in the big leagues. Lights would make the game seem almost more real, and that would make me, or any other kid happy, and a happy kid is all the reason to put lights in a town. I'm sure you think that a small town like Halifax could live without lights, but the truth is, for such a small town, most of the residents with children play baseball or softball. I know that presidents Steve Young, baseball coordinator, and Pete Barone, softball coordinator, would appreciate this more than anyone. So please consider Halifax for winning the gift of lights for our field. Everyone, young and old would appreciate this.

Sincerely,
Richie Fahey.

