



*Bringing back the birds*

I'm Doctor Christine Sheppard, director of American Bird Conservancy's Glass Collisions Program. Thank you for allowing me to contribute my testimony. I've been working on this issue for over 20 years. People have been designing bird-friendly buildings as long as they have been building structures – it is only recently that the expanded use of glass has begun to threaten the existence of birds, with hundreds of millions of fatal collisions every year. Luckily, it is possible to retain the advantages of glass, providing clarity of view, insulation and structure, while significantly reducing the risk of collisions by birds. For humans, this is self-serving – birds provide billions of dollars to us in services we often don't notice, bringing seeds so that habitat can regrow after fires, eating insects that can spread diseases, or ruin our crops and forests. Bird-friendly design should not be considered an extra or an add on. It uses the same strategies and materials used to control heat and glare, so there is usually no incremental cost. Almost any style of architecture can be safe for birds, using well tested techniques. Two examples are shown below. New York City recently passed legislation requiring bird-friendly design for all new structures and major retrofits. I hope that Maryland will become only the second state to pass legislation requiring bird-friendly design.



Jacob Javits Convention Center, NYC



Javits glass close up



Intuit Headquarters, Mountainview, CA



interior view of glass

ABC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. Founded in 1994, ABC has long been a leader in Partners in Flight and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and is the only U.S.-based group dedicated solely to overcoming the greatest threats facing native birds in the Western Hemisphere. ABC is also the leading force in ongoing efforts to protect birds from collisions with the only national bird collisions program