

Maryland General Assembly – Senate EHEA Committee – March 22, 2022

HB0043, Energy-Conserving Standard, Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2022

As a Hispanic American and Hispanic resident of Maryland I support this effort wholeheartedly.

One billion birds die in the U.S. every year colliding with transparent or reflective building glass (and the number of glass-dominated buildings is growing exponentially)

- People walk into glass when they don't see the frame; birds never recognize a frame
- Nearly all species are affected; even the best and brightest birds collide and die
- Declining populations of migratory songbirds are significantly attributable to this non-sustainable loss
- Birds are both an ecological mainstay and an economic driver through factors such as pest control
- Maryland receives \$333 million in revenue from bird watching each year)

Building design and treated glass are an existing solution

- Flight tunnel tests have demonstrated the degree of safety provided by different kinds of glass
- Green Business Council LEED program has codified a bird-friendly building pilot credit 55
- Building façade, screens, and shades work
- Glass with UV or visible patterns of narrow lines or dots in 2x4" arrangement work
- Bird-friendly design is generally cost neutral at the design phase
- Bird-friendly designs and glass are energy efficient and saves dollars over time

Bird Safe Building designs and retrofits are already being implemented

- Many beautiful glass buildings are bird friendly such as Anchorage Museum and the Inuit Headquarters in Mountainview CA
- Expansive Jacob Javits Conference Center in NYC was retrofitted to be bird friendly and has reduced bird deaths by 90% and energy consumption by 25%
- Locally the Maryland DNR Tawes Building, National Aquarium, universities, nature centers and others are retrofitting their glass to be bird friendly

Bird Safe Building laws are already being implemented

- States of Illinois (2021) and Minnesota (2013) have mandatory bird safe building laws and Howard County MD passed a comprehensive law in July 2020

- Mandatory laws are also in place in New York City, San Francisco, Oakland, Toronto, Ontario Province, and many other cities in US and Canada, with voluntary laws in other places
- Federal General Services Administration has instituted bird-safe standards, following passage in US House of a bi-partisan bill Bird-Safe Buildings Act earlier

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alexi Sanchez de Boado', written in a cursive style.

Alexi Sanchez de Boado
Hyattsville, MD