



Maryland Office
2901 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
Tel: 410-558-2473
md.audubon.org

March 21, 2022

The Maryland Senate - Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Subject: HB 43 Department of General Services – Energy Conserving Standards (Maryland Sustainable Building Act of 2022)

Position: Favorable

Honorable Members of the Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Audubon Mid-Atlantic enthusiastically supports the Senate version of HB 43 - Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2022 as a method of reducing energy consumption and better protecting birds. Audubon Mid-Atlantic is the regional office of the National Audubon Society representing over 35,000 Marylanders who wish to protect birds and the places they call home today and tomorrow, using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. The practices required by HB 43 for state funded projects include energy-conserving features that are also bird-safe features by lowering the cost of heating and cooling, and also protecting Maryland's unique resident and migratory birds from building-strikes. The practices, like requiring motion-sensor and/or down-shielded lights also limit unnecessary nighttime light pollution and reduce energy consumption as well. We appreciate the hard work that both the House and Senate put into this legislation and Audubon asks for a favorable vote for HB 43 to both reduce energy consumption/carbon emissions and reduce the number of bird collisions with buildings.

Nearly 1 billion fatal bird collisions occur every year. It is possible to retain the advantages of glass, by simply treating the glass in the manufacturing phase or with low-cost building design solutions, while significantly reducing the risk of collisions by birds. Preventing Bird collisions is good for people too. As we know, birds provide billions of dollars in services through pollinating crops and transporting seeds, supporting both habitat growth and agriculture. Birds eat insects that spread diseases, or ruin crops and forests. Bird friendly design is not an add on. It uses the same strategies and materials used to regulate building temperature and reduce glare making this legislation a common sense victory for both birds and for the building industry. With HB 43 Maryland will become a national leader by passing legislation requiring bird-friendly design. This will be good for birds and for the people and economy of Maryland.

Thank you,

Jim Brown
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Policy Director

