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I am encouraging you to support HB0236 Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2021. This bill will require state buildings to adopt sustainable building standards that ensure energy efficient practices, cost-saving installations, and ultimately reduces glass collisions that kill up to 1 billion federally protected migratory birds per year. I am asking you to support this bill because these same building standards have already been passed in many other states and cities. Passing this bill benefits the community, environment, and wildlife.

I am supportive of these measures to finally recognize sustainable building standards that reduce the negative impact on the environment such as migratory birds, bats, sea turtles, and more. Light pollution has been linked to migratory birds being thrown off their navigational path, fledgling sea turtles going towards hotels instead of the ocean, and insects flocking to cities instead of wild areas and their normal habitat.

The lighting standards proposed in HB0236 are standards fully supported by wildlife conservation organizations such as the National Aquarium. In 2010, the aquarium changed exterior lighting to green colored lights and downward facing light fixtures to reduce light pollution. All interior lights at the aquarium have been updated to timers greatly reducing energy use and costs. The Aquarium has also recognized the need for sustainable building standards by installing bird-safe film to prevent bird collisions. The film covers the first 40 feet from the ground of the Australia exhibit. The National Aquarium installation hopefully encourages state-wide buildings to adopt bird-safe design in future projects.

In my role as the Director of Lights Out Baltimore, I have seen the negative impact that poorly designed buildings have on the local community as well. Birds found dead or injured from building collisions in downtown Baltimore inspired members of the community to form Lights Out Baltimore (LOB), an all-volunteer based organization of the Baltimore Bird Club that rescues birds from glass collisions during spring and fall migration. Local businesses that too became disheartened by finding dead or injured birds have started monitoring their own buildings and installing retrofits that provide a safe environment for migratory birds. Many schools in Baltimore city and county have reached out to LOB to provide educational programs that teach students about wildlife and the need to conserve our native species. LOB has worked with these schools by



hosting bird-safe workshops where students design window retrofits and install them on problem windows at their schools.

Due to the overwhelming support from the local community, U.S. Fish and Wildlife now recognizes Baltimore as an Urban Bird Treaty City by creating bird habitats and mitigating hazards for migratory birds such as light pollution and glass collisions. As LOB works with the community there is a need for state support on creating the surrounding environment next to bird habitats safe for birds.

Your support for this bill will do exactly that-incorporate truly sustainable design that considers light efficient practices and bird-safe elements to reduce glass collisions. Since 2008, LOB has found over 4000 dead birds in the downtown area, rescued 1000, and reported 102 species, 66 which are listed on the Department of Natural Resources Maryland Species of Greatest Conservation Need. One rescued bird was a Yellow Rail, a bird last documented in 1893 in Baltimore city. An average of 400 birds are found dead in downtown Baltimore monitoring 20 buildings only 4 months a year. Can you imagine how high the average number is across the state of Maryland year around? With an increase of glass features in development, abundance of exposed lighting fixtures, the annual number of bird mortality will see a significant and alarming increase.

Voting in favor of this bill is an example of Maryland's leadership in building the community, conserving energy, saving money, and conserving native wildlife. I urge you to support this important bill to ensure a vital future for these migratory birds and the Maryland community to enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jacks