

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the Department of General Services—Energy-Conserving Standards (Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2021, please understand my strong support of the bill.

I've been the Outreach Coordinator for the bird conservation and wildlife rescue organization Lights Out Baltimore for eleven years. In that time, I've come to fully understand one of the leading causes of bird mortality, window collisions.

Bird populations are plummeting. This saddens and disturbs me considering how much beauty and song we are losing, but also the vital roles birds play in our ecosystems. As well as loving birds, we need them to help pollinate, disperse seeds, and control insect populations—both disease bearing and crop pests.

In the midst of our biodiversity crisis which is intertwined with climate change, please require bird-friendly and energy efficient guidelines.

Birds most often strike buildings from the ground up to thirty feet. This is the danger zone. It's what's being reflected in windows—trees and other greenery—that attracts them to the killing glass. Use a bird-safe glass/fritted pattern in the lower portion of buildings, and you'll keep most birds from striking.

In a small monitoring area of downtown Baltimore which includes twenty to twenty-five buildings, I've personally rescued and transported hundreds of birds. If you extrapolate, you'll understand why we know that a billion birds are dying annually in the United States.

I've heard the terrible sound they make when they strike. I've seen how badly they suffer. Please keep this from happening.

Thank you, respectfully--

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