

Hello Senate EHEA Committee,

My name is Payton Schreiber-Pan, and I am reaching out to you concerning the upcoming vote on House Bill 236, the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act. I understand you have a busy schedule, so I will keep this as short as possible.

I am 16 years old, and attend Dulaney High School as a junior. As a teenager, I have often heard it said that solving the climate crisis is up to the younger generation, but I don't believe this to be true. We need to start now, and in this case, the power is in your hands.

This bill is crucial on so many levels. Firstly, protecting our birds. Over a billion birds die every year in North America alone from glass collisions (*Audubon*). This is simply unacceptable when there is such an easy solution. So many of your constituents have a deep connection and personal love for these birds, that to find thousands of them at the foot of Baltimore buildings each year is heartbreaking. HB236 will prevent this in any future buildings, by minimizing glass used on lower floors of any state funded buildings.

And this has implications far beyond the birds. Glass is known to be the worst material for insulation, and we can only attempt to estimate the ridiculous amount of energy lost through this glass. And simply turning the heat up will not suffice. Climate change is only worsening and with your vote on this bill, you can do your part to mitigate it, by saving more amounts of energy than any constituent could by turning off their lights when they leave the house.

But I'm well aware that money makes the world go round, so to put it plainly: less energy wasted = more money saved. It's not every day that environmental interests align with economic gains, but we've gotten lucky here. I hope it sounds as easy to you as it does to me; vote yes on the bill, save the birds, save the climate, and save some money. It just makes sense. If taxpayers pay for these buildings, they should be built safely for native wildlife and benefitting of future generations.

The bill also concerns a reduction in lighting regarding these same buildings. The current light pollution had adverse effects on not only birds but also bats, insects, and PEOPLE. The excess light has been linked to several negative health effects in humans, including sleep disorders and mental decline (*NCBI*). Well, good thing HB236 takes care of two birds with one stone (but really thousands of birds). This bill is overwhelmingly positive for your constituents, climate, wildlife, and even reputation. You have the opportunity to make the right decision. How do you want to be remembered?

Thank you so much for reading this message. I trust that you will keep our planet and your constituents in your interest when you vote.

Payton