

Testimony for HB6
Feb 8, 2023
Health and Government Operations

Good afternoon,

I am Lance Davis, Sustainability Architect for a federal agency with over 186 million sf of owned inventory in the US. I write the book, P100, used to set the design standards and performance requirements for this inventory. I am also a LEED Fellow, immediate past chair of the LEED Steering Committee, an AIA member and proud resident of the state of Maryland.

In 2012 I was introduced to the idea of bird safe design by the American Bird Conservancy. Shortly after that, members of Congress were reaching out to me to educate them and help with proposed legislation. For the last 10 years, I have met with some of the world's experts and associations to develop a high level of knowledge on this topic. In 2018, I introduced the concept of bird safe design to the federal inventory and in 2021, I wrote, in close collaboration with the American Bird Conservancy and the National Glass Association, the nation's leading and most reasonable requirements for bird safe design.

Bird safe design recognizes that birds cannot see glass or perceive visual cues like window frames and mullions. The most dangerous areas on buildings are generally on the lower floors which produce reflections of food, shelter, or escape routes. Some solutions are simple, others could add significant cost if done poorly. An uninspired design team that slaps on a product will undoubtedly add cost to any project. But, I have seen many solutions that are integrated, beautiful, and no to little first cost. The best solutions are coordinated with other building components and help to bring many systems together.

This is a key reason why I like the language in HB6. It combines and recognizes the need to integrate energy efficiency, bird safe design and lighting. This language's intent allows design teams the freedom to find the best solutions with no to little first cost to the project, and more importantly, find the best way to lower operational costs thus saving significant money over the long term. I encourage you to move this bill forward so that DGS can work with industry experts to set standards that lower operational energy through bird safe design.

Thank you,

Lance Davis, AIA, LEED Fellow, MSU Fellow