

Maryland General Assembly – Senate EHEA Committee – February 6, 2023

HB0006, Energy-Conserving Standards, Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2023

As a Hispanic-American and Hispanic resident of Maryland I support this effort wholeheartedly.

One billion birds die in the U.S. every year colliding with transparent or reflective building glass (and the number of glass-dominated buildings is growing exponentially)

- People walk into glass when they don't see the frame; birds never recognize a frame
- Nearly all species are affected; even the best and brightest birds collide and die
- Declining populations of migratory songbirds are significantly attributable to this non-sustainable loss
- Birds are both an ecological mainstay and an economic driver through factors such as pest control
- Maryland receives \$333 million in revenue from bird watching each year)

Building design and treated glass are an existing solution

- Flight tunnel tests have demonstrated the degree of safety provided by different kinds of glass
- Green Business Council LEED program has codified a bird-friendly building pilot credit 55
- Building façade, screens, and shades work
- Glass with UV or visible patterns of narrow lines or dots in 2x4" arrangement work
- Bird-friendly design is generally cost neutral at the design phase
- Bird-friendly designs and glass are energy efficient and saves dollars over time

Bird Safe Building designs and retrofits are already being implemented

- Many beautiful glass buildings are bird friendly such as Anchorage Museum and the Inuit Headquarters in Mountainview CA
- Expansive Jacob Javits Conference Center in NYC was retrofitted to be bird friendly and has reduced bird deaths by 90% and energy consumption by 25%
- Locally the Maryland DNR Tawes Building, National Aquarium, universities, nature centers and others are retrofitting their glass to be bird friendly

Bird Safe Building laws are already being implemented

- States of Illinois (2021) and Minnesota (2013) have mandatory bird safe building laws and Howard County MD passed a comprehensive law in July 2020

- Mandatory laws are also in place in New York City, San Francisco, Oakland, Toronto, Ontario Province, and many other cities in US and Canada, with voluntary laws in other places
- Federal General Services Administration has instituted bird-safe standards, following passage in US House of a bi-partisan bill Bird-Safe Buildings Act earlier

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexi Sanchez de Boado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexi" being the most prominent part.

Alexi Sanchez de Boado
Hyattsville, MD 20782