



HB6 – Department of General Services – Energy–Conserving Standards (Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2023)

Testimony before

House Health & Government Operations Committee

February 8, 2023

Position: Favorable

Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Alec Weinberg, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today ***in support of HB6***, which would save bird deaths while making our buildings more energy efficient. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Del. Hill for sponsoring this important legislation.

We support this legislation for two reasons: saving birds, and saving energy.

Birds are essential to the health of our ecosystems. They are predators, prey, seed dispersers, scavengers, and pollinators. The natural resources we depend on depend significantly on birds. Yet since 1970 we've lost 29% of all North American birds - one billion a year due to collisions with windows. This bill would prevent 90% of bird deaths at each bird-safe building.

The climate crisis is also destroying ecosystems. According to the World Health Organization, climate change is the number one health threat facing humanity, already causing thousands of extra deaths each year due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. Energy efficient windows would decrease our energy consumption, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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