

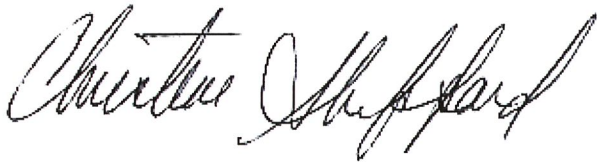
Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Sheppard <csheppard@abcbirds.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: written testimony for CB11
Attachments: Sheppard testimony 2020.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please accept my written testimony in support of CB11, the Bird-safe Buildings bill.

Sincerely,



Christine Sheppard, Ph.D.
Director, Glass Collisions Program
American Bird Conservancy

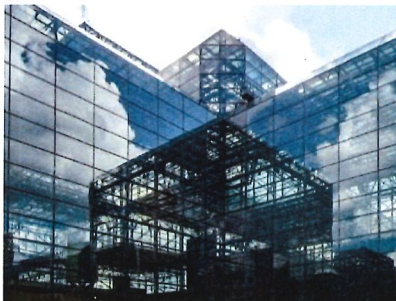
office 646 661 1862
cell 914 261 8277

collisions.abcbirds.org



Bringing back the birds

I'm Doctor Christine Sheppard, director of American Bird Conservancy's Glass Collisions Program. Thank you for allowing me to contribute my testimony. I've been working on this issue for over 20 years. People have been designing bird-friendly buildings as long as they have been building structures – it is only recently that the expanded use of glass has begun to threaten the existence of birds, with hundreds of millions of fatal collisions every year. Luckily, it is possible to retain the advantages of glass, providing clarity of view, insulation and structure, while significantly reducing the risk of collisions by birds. For humans, this is self-serving – birds provide billions of dollars to us in services we often don't notice, bringing seeds so that habitat can regrow after fires, eating insects that can spread diseases, or ruin our crops and forests. Bird-friendly design should not be considered an extra or an add on. It uses the same strategies and materials used to control heat and glare, so there is usually no incremental cost. Almost any style of architecture can be safe for birds, using well tested techniques. Two examples are shown below. New York City recently passed legislation requiring bird-friendly design for all new structures and major retrofits. I hope that Howard County will pass CB11, the Bird-safe Buildings Bill.



Jacob Javits Convention Center, NYC



Javits glass close up



Intuit Headquarters, Mountainview, CA



interior view of glass

ABC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. Founded in 1994, ABC has long been a leader in Partners in Flight and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and is the only U.S.-based group dedicated solely to overcoming the greatest threats facing native birds in the Western Hemisphere. ABC is also the leading force in ongoing efforts to protect birds from collisions with the only national bird collisions program

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Parsa <carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 5:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Support for CB11-2020
Attachments: CB11-2020 SGAHC.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Honorable County Council,

Please find a letter of support for CB11-2020 from the Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County.

Thank you.

--

Carolyn Parsa
Sierra Club Howard County Chair

Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

March 16, 2020

The Honorable Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB11-2020, Bird-friendly building design standards – Support

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources.

We support Council Bill 11-2020 (CB11) to require that new buildings meet bird-friendly design standards as specified in the U.S. Green Building Council LEED pilot credit 55. CB11 is a major step toward a sustainable Howard County, one that will save thousands of birds each year and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

1. Glass Buildings as Energy Sinks. Howard County is experiencing exponential growth of buildings with extensive glass facades. These majority-glass buildings are an energy sink and erode the energy conservation gains from decades of green building policies through the heat gain from windows and the need for additional air conditioning. If future building is dominated by extensive glass facades, we can only expect increasing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions for decades.

2. Glass Buildings as Killers of Birds. Up to 1 billion birds die in the U.S. every year from colliding with transparent or reflective building glass (and the number of glass-dominated buildings is growing exponentially). 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 building construction trend. Birds are both an ecological mainstay and economic driver through pest control and tourism (Maryland receives \$333 million in revenue from bird watching each year). As new large glass buildings are built, such as in Downtown Columbia, we are creating a deathtrap for birds migrating through our community.

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County
Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute
Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP • Horizon Foundation • Howard County Citizens Association
Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Ornithological Society • Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Preservation Maryland • Safe Skies Maryland • Savage Community Association • The People's Voice • Transition Howard County*

March 16, 2020
The Honorable County Council
Page 2

Win-Win Solution. Fortunately, both problems are easily solvable. The building standards embodied in this bill would both conserve energy and reduce bird mortality by 90%.

Waiting even one year will see more glass buildings built and more money lost, more greenhouse gas emissions, and more birds dying. The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County looks forward to seeing bird-friendly building design become reality and make Howard County more sustainable.

Sincerely,

Safe Skies Maryland

Mark Southerland, Ph.D.
Legislative Director

Audubon Maryland-DC

David Curson
Director of Bird Conservation

Savage Community Association

Susan Garber
Board Chair

Howard County Sierra Club

Carolyn Parsa
Chair

Transition Howard County

Margo Duesterhaus
President

The People's Voice, LLC

Lisa M. Markovitz
President

The Maryland Ornithological Society

Kurt Schwarz
Conservation Chair

Audubon Central MD

Morgan Lakey
President

Howard County Citizens Association

Stu Kohn
President

Preservation Maryland

Nicholas A. Redding
Executive Director

Clean Water Action

Emily Ranson
Maryland Program Coordinator

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Georgie <gjones@aqua.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 11:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: National Aquarium's testimony CB11-2020
Attachments: CB11-2020-Jung.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Attached please find the National Aquarium's testimony in favor of CB11-2020.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either me, or Ryan Fredriksson at rfredriksson@aqua.org.

Thank you,
Georgie Jones

GEORGIE JONES

External Affairs Coordinator

☎ 410-576-3889 📠 410-986-2337

✉ gjones@aqua.org



We are a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures.

National Aquarium

501 E Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202 (Aquarium)
111 Market Pl, STE 800, Baltimore, MD 21202 (Office)



aqua.org

📄 Please consider our ocean planet before printing.



NATIONAL AQUARIUM[®]

Date: March 16, 2020

Bill: CB11-2020

Position: Support

Dear Chair Jung and Members of the County Council:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **CB11-2020**, which will help minimize fatal bird strikes across Howard County and increase energy savings.

It is estimated that window strikes are a leading cause of bird population decline, second only to habitat loss. Baltimore and much of Maryland lie within a major migratory pathway for birds, some flying from as far away as South America. Thankfully, steps can be taken to dramatically limit fatal bird strikes and preserve bird populations through building design, installation of bird-safe glass and films, and limits to interior lighting at night.

In the last two years, the National Aquarium has worked with our animal care experts to design and cover over 3,000 sq. ft of existing glass with bird-safe dot patterns. This includes the 1,300 sq. ft “wing wall”, pictured here, that was responsible for over 70 percent of all bird strikes at the Aquarium. The wing wall film serves a dual purpose by using the bird dot patterns to display the National Aquarium’s name on the building. This innovative approach created new highly visible signage and has significantly reduced bird strikes on the building.

CB11-2020 would help mitigate bird strikes across Howard County by requiring similar strategies be utilized on buildings or that bird-safe building and design standards be considered from the start of new projects.

Our experience shows that many of the methods used to prevent bird strikes not only make a significant difference but also have several benefits beyond decreasing bird fatalities. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on CB11- 2020.**

Contact:

Ryan Fredriksson

Director, Government Affairs

410-385-8276

rfredriksson@aqua.org



National Aquarium “wing wall”. Design credit: Ayers Saint Gross

Sayers, Margery

From: Julie Dunlap <juliejdunlap@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 4:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Morgan Lakey; Shannon Kennedy
Subject: Testimony for CB11 from the Audubon Society of Central Maryland
Attachments: AudubonCentralMDTestimonyCB11March162020 .docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Attached, please find testimony in support of CB 11 for Bird Friendly Design for New LEED Certified Buildings from the Audubon Society of Central Maryland (ASCM) We appreciate the opportunity to speak out for this important legislation, and hope that everyone on the Howard County Council recognizes the importance of protecting the quality of life in our area—and everywhere that birds migrate—by designing buildings and lighting to reduce the toll taken on wild populations by the built environment.

Thank you and best wishes, Julie Dunlap, ASCM Education Chair



March 16, 2020

Audubon Society of Central Maryland
P.O. Box 660
Mount Airy, MD 21771

Dear County Council Members:

The Audubon Society of Central Maryland is a 501 c 3 organization, with a mission to protect and restore birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, through education and action, for the benefit of people and the earth. A chapter of the National Audubon Society, our territory includes Carroll, Frederick, and Howard counties, and as an organization we are deeply concerned about long-term declines in North American bird populations. A comprehensive assessment published last fall in the journal *Science* reported that since 1970 the US and Canada have lost 2.9 billion birds. Nearly every type of bird is declining, not just exotic birds on tropical islands or the remote arctic, but common grassland birds, shorebirds, and eastern forest birds. Baltimore Orioles alone have lost over 30% of their population, or 1 of 3 orioles that existed in 1970. The study co-authors call it a “staggering loss” that suggests “the very fabric of North America’s ecosystem is unraveling.”

Our Audubon chapter works to reverse these alarming trends by conserving habitat at our wildlife sanctuaries in Frederick County, by educating the public about habitat protection, and by advocating for significant legislation. We are urging support for CB 11 for Bird Friendly Design for New LEED Certified Buildings because it offers improvements in building design that can help protect birds from one of the leading human-related sources of mortality. Window collisions kill more than twenty times as many each year as cars, wind turbines, or oil spills. Pesticides, which poison a staggering 72 million birds are year, are still less lethal than windows by a factor of 14.

And many of the billion annual bird deaths from collisions are preventable. Studies show that window treatments and design changes work. Relatively inexpensive alterations that affect glass reflectivity can cut the toll our buildings take on birds. As more homes, apartments, office towers, and government facilities dominate our landscape, the risk will grow and bird populations will plummet unless we take action.

Consider one Baltimore Oriole, hatched last summer in a willow tree at Centennial Park. This one was lucky to survive nest predation by squirrels and crows, and to grow fat on tent caterpillars, despite pesticides that limit insect abundance, to reach a hearty 1.2 ounces. Last fall, she took off for Central America, and found a patch of forest, spared from removal for coffee plantations, where she could overwinter on tropical fruit. Now, in March, the urge is strong to return north, almost 2,000 miles, if she can fly all the way back to Howard County. But



will she make it? Hazards along the way are many, and odds of her survival are low. As development continues, as more of the sky she is adapted to transforms into a maze of potentially fatal reflections, each oriole's odds grow longer every year.

Do we want orioles in our lives? If we do, if we want bluebirds, or red-tailed hawks, or woodcocks, wrens, eagles, or herons—all of which are killed in window collisions--we will do what we can in Howard County to ease that oriole's journey. Howard County can help stitch up the unraveling fabric of the ecosystems we all depend upon, and we can start by passing CB 11. Thank you.

Thank you for your consideration,
Julie Dunlap, PhD
Education Chair
Audubon Society of Central Maryland