

Introduced March 2, 2020  
 Public Hearing June 15, 2020  
 Council Action July 6, 2020  
 Executive Action July 7, 2020  
 Effective Date September 6, 2020

**County Council of Howard County, Maryland**

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

**Bill No. 11 -2020**

Introduced by: Deb Jung  
 Co-sponsored by: Christiana Rigby and Liz Walsh

AN ACT to require certain projects to document that the project meets specified bird-friendly design standards; providing for a delay in enforcement of this Act; and generally relating to environmental design.

Introduced and read first time March 2, 2020. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

4/6/2020 tabled  
5/4/2020 removed from table,  
 extended & placed back on table

By order Diane Schwartz Jones  
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on June 15, 2020.

6/1/2020 Removed from table  
6/11/2020 extended & placed back on table  
7/6/2020 removed from table

By order Diane Schwartz Jones  
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on July 6 2020 and Passed  Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

By order Diane Schwartz Jones  
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 7th day of July, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones  
 Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive July 7, 2020

Calvin Ball  
 Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard**  
2 **County Code is amended as follows:**

3 *By amending:*

4 *Title 3 – Buildings.*

5 *Subtitle 10 – Energy efficiency and environmental design.*

6 *Section 3.1005 – Required submissions; condition of approval;*  
7 *certificate of use and occupancy.*

8 *Subsection (b) – Required Submissions—Building*  
9 *Permit Application.*

10  
11 **Title 3 – Buildings.**

12 **Subtitle 10 – Energy efficiency and environmental design.**

13  
14 **Section 3.1005 – Required submissions; condition of approval; certificate of use and**  
15 **occupancy.**

16 (b) Required Submissions—Building Permit Application. In addition to other  
17 documents required to be submitted with a building permit application, an applicant for  
18 new construction subject to this subtitle shall submit to the Director:

19 (1) (i) Documentation showing that the project has been registered with the  
20 Green Building Council and an updated LEED checklist that shall be prepared, signed,  
21 and dated by the project LEED accredited professional; or

22 (ii) If the Director has adopted equivalent standards by regulation, an  
23 updated checklist that is approved by the Director as demonstrating that the  
24 Applicant meets the equivalent standards;

25 (2) DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE BUILDING MEETS:

26 1. THE BIRD-FRIENDLY DESIGN STANDARDS OF THE 2011 EDITION OF  
27 “PILOT CREDIT #55: REDUCING BIRD COLLISIONS” IN THE LEED GREEN  
28 BUILDING RATING SYSTEM; OR

29 2. THE BIRD-FRIENDLY DESIGN STANDARDS THAT THE DIRECTOR  
30 ADOPTS BY REGULATION AND THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO PILOT CREDIT #55;

1           [[ (2) ]] (3) Any other document or information the Director finds necessary to  
2 determine whether the building will achieve the applicable standard under section 3.1004  
3 of this subtitle;

4           [[ (3) ]] (4) If applicable, documentation that the LEED design features and  
5 specifications have been reviewed and approved by the project's LEED accredited  
6 professional; and

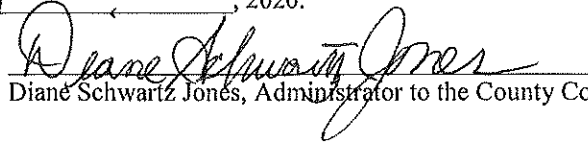
7           [[ (4) ]] (5) General notes or individual detail drawings on all construction  
8 documents showing or explaining the green building measures used to attain the  
9 applicable LEED rating.

10  
11 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that***  
12 ***the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall enforce this Act beginning 6 months***  
13 ***after the day of its enactment.***

14  
15 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that***  
16 ***this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on July 7, 2020.

  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 11-2020**

Introduced: March 2, 2020

Auditor: Michael Martin

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Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation cannot be definitively estimated at this time.

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), the actual cost to incorporate bird-safe window glossing would be 1 percent or less of the total project cost and the cost of retrofitting existing buildings could be substantial, costing \$25 per square foot. It would cost the County an estimated \$350,000 to implement bird-safe window glossing at the George Howard Building, according to DPW.

Further, DPW stated the cost of meeting bird-friendly standards depends on a variety of factors relating to the planning and construction of buildings such as:

- Cost of high-grade glass and materials required;
- Specific building design requirements; and
- Limited number of manufacturers who provide such protective features.

The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP) would be required to verify that building permit applications meet the bird-friendly standards. Based on direct input received from DILP, this could be incorporated into their existing inspection process with no additional staff. Therefore, they do not anticipate a fiscal impact in adopting the proposed legislation.

Purpose:

The legislation requires bird-friendly design standards for buildings that are mandated to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

Building permit applications would be required to show that the building meets LEED Pilot Credit #55: Reducing Bird Collisions or an equivalent standard.

Other Comments:

None

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Dean Mahlstedt <birdingboyy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 7:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**To Howard County Government:**

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you for your concern!

Howard County Bird Club Members,  
Dean Mahlstedt & Mary Lally

CB11-2020



11825 West Market Place | Fulton, MD 20759 | 301-776-6242

June 15, 2020

**Re: OPPOSITION TO CB11 – Bird-Friendly Design Standards**

Dear Chairwoman Jung and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in opposition to Council Bill 11, which would require bird-friendly design standards for buildings that are mandated to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, these additional requirements will add to the cost of new residential projects. From the builder/developer's perspective, this feels like additional burden on top of all of the expensive and time-consuming restrictions and regulations already placed upon our industry by local jurisdictions. From the resident's perspective, this additional cost will be passed onto the homebuyer or renter and could negatively affect the affordability of housing in Howard County.

A better approach would be to incentivize bird-friendly design, rather than require it, through more credits to a developer/builder that meets the proposed standards. However, the current version unnecessarily places additional burdens on land developers, the development community and the County building review authority. We respectfully request the Council vote no on Council Bill 11-2020.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued support of the local home building industry. If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA's position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [abailey@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:abailey@marylandbuilders.org) or (202) 815-4445.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelica Bailey".

Angelica Bailey, Esq., Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Councilman Opel Jones  
Councilmember Christiana Mercer Rigby  
Councilman David Yungmann  
Councilmember Elizabeth Walsh

County Executive Calvin Ball  
Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff to the County Executive



## **Bird-safe Buildings Alliance**

June 15, 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

Honorable Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support of CB11-2020. I am an architect who has enjoyed a practice that has had the opportunity to contribute to the public buildings program of the City of New York. I also serve on the Board of New York City Audubon, where I have worked to support their Project Safe Flight program. Started in 1997, Project Safe Flight is a groundbreaking data collection effort focused on bird/ building collisions in New York City. This effort led to the creation of the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance, a national network of architects, scientists and others who advocate for solutions to the collisions problem. I have worked with the Alliance for over a decade, including being part of the team that developed the LEED Pilot Credit 55 with the U.S. Green Building Council.

Over the years, I have witnessed hundreds of stunned or mortally injured birds, lured by the reflective glass commonly used in our modern buildings. I have read the studies that attempt to quantify the number of fatalities, ranging from 600 million to 1 billion birds lost each year in the US alone. The numbers are profoundly alarming. So how did we get here? We have used glass in windows for hundreds of years, and while there are historical accounts of collision events, the problem exponentially worsened in recent decades. Cultural tastes and technology began to change significantly in the middle of the 20th century. Modern designers were inspired by the ideas of architects such as Mies Van Der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright who spoke of connecting the individual with nature. Glass and window frame technology advanced alongside these new designs, delivering larger windows and eventually curtainwalls that created facades entirely of glass. It wasn't long before the poor thermal performance of single pane glazing was noticed. Double glazing was introduced in the 1960's and metallic coatings in the 1970's to try to manage the thermal complaints of occupants and reduce heating and cooling costs. Both of these steps became industry standards. Both of these steps made windows more reflective, sometimes approaching the reflectivity of a mirror. The unintended consequence was that building glazing became much more dangerous for birds, while simultaneously our growing crop of new buildings used greater expanses of glass. I bring this history to your attention to



highlight the attentiveness of the glazing industry in developing energy efficient products. Today an architect has hundreds of choices geared toward meeting local energy codes. In recent years, glazing manufacturers have also started to focus their attention on collisions, resulting in promising bird-friendly products both in development and emerging on the market. It is a pivotal moment to encourage these manufacturers by confirming that communities across the country will support their efforts by taking steps to require bird-friendly building design. Our flight tunnel testing has taught us that we can solve the collisions problem. A coordinated team of engaged and united civic leaders, architects, and glazing manufacturers can make it happen! Please vote "aye" for CB11-2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Laurel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Laurel  
Vice-President BSBA

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Robyn Evans <evansrobyn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Dear Howard County Council members:**

**Please support the bill CB11-2020 for bird friendly building design. As a birdwatcher I am very concerned with the huge numbers of songbirds killed by strikes to glass windows in our built environment. I have found dead birds under windows of commercial buildings myself and it is very sad.**

**This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you,

**Robyn Evans  
10030 The Mending Wall  
Columbia MD 21044**

June 12, 2020  
The Honorable Deb Jung, Chairperson  
Howard County Council  
George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB 12-2020, Landlord-Tenant Relations

Chairperson Jung and Members of the Council,

On behalf of Howard County Indivisible, an organization committed to fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy, we write to express our concerns about provisions in CB 12-2020 related to changes in Title 17 Subtitle 10. We have concerns that the proposed legislation tips the scales in favor of landlords in ways that are detrimental to those seeking to lease housing in Howard County.

Our particular concerns are as follows:

- The proposed changes to Section. 17-1008(a)(2)(ii),(c)(2) would remove the requirement that a landlord show the dwelling unit to be leased before the lease is executed. Although the changes allow the tenant to inspect the dwelling unit before occupancy and select a different unit if damage is found, there may in fact be no other units from which to choose, or the available units may be in similar or worst condition. In this case, the tenant may be forced by the need to move expeditiously and the absence of other options into accepting the damaged unit.
- The proposed change to Sec. 17-1009(b)(3) removes language which gives the tenant the right to either terminate the lease without penalty or request that a rent escrow account be established if the owner does not abate a code violation by the required date. According to the Office of the County Auditor, Title 8 provides for the establishment of escrow accounts. Still, this change denies the tenant the other powerful expedient of being able to terminate the lease. The response provided by the Office of the County Auditor rationalizes that tenants are not notified of violations, presumably to suggest that a tenant would not have the knowledge to act on this provision. We assert that we should be seeking greater transparency between landlords and tenants; the landlord should be required to share information about code violations and the plan to remedy them with impacted tenants, and tenants should retain the right to terminate the lease if the remedies are not executed as required.
- The proposed change to Sec. 17.1010(14) removes the prohibition on a lease stating that the lease is a contract under seal. As we understand it, the practical implication of this is that, while Maryland code normally imposes a three-year statute of limitations on civil action related to a lease, when the lease is a "contract under seal" the statute of limitations is increased to twelve years. We believe that it is in the best interest of tenants to have these legal actions executed in an expedient manner. A tenant should not have the possibility of a legal action open for twelve years.
- The proposed changes to 1Sec. 17.1008(a)(2)(iv) would require a landlord to provide the tenant with a copy of the Office's Landlord Tenant Assistance publication in languages other than English only if the Office makes the publication available in that language. Given the pervasiveness of the Spanish language in our society, this should be amended as follows: Provide the tenant with a copy of the Office's Landlord Tenant Assistance publication written in



ENGLISH **AND SPANISH** AND [[the]] ANY OTHER language of the tenant's choice WHEN THE OFFICE MAKES THE PUBLICATION AVAILABLE IN THAT LANGUAGE.

We ask the Council to carefully consider our comments on the proposed legislation and reject changes that will not be in the best interest of the Howard County renting community.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Akinpelu  
443-335-9119 (cell)  
[jakinpelu@verizon.net](mailto:jakinpelu@verizon.net)  
On behalf of the Economic Equity Committee  
Indivisible HoCoMD

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kimberlee Drake <kimdrakeenv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** In favor of CB-11

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

Dear Howard County Council members,  
As always Thank you for your continued work during these difficult times.  
I appreciate you all!  
I am writing in favor of CB-11 Bird-friendly Building Design Standards.

I support this bill for a couple of reasons. First, glass buildings are incredibly inefficient. It basically turns office building into greenhouses! Then they need to use extra air conditioning to cool them. This uses energy that is currently still ~2/3 fossil fuels.

In addition, birds can't see glass! they see the reflection of the sky/clouds/tree etc. and so they fly right into it. It must be a terrible way for them to die.

I am a secretary of the Howard County Sierra club board and I support their testimony as well. I also volunteer with Safe Skies Maryland and support their testimony.  
Finally, I am a member of the Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County and support their testimony.

Thank you for considering this bill. I hope it will be one more step toward a more sustainable, energy efficient, ecosystem protecting step for Howard County!

Thank you again for your time and service.

Kim Drake,  
Climate change specialist in the Climate Change program at the Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary, Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee  
member, Steering committee of the Howard County Climate Collaboration  
Secretary, HoCo Sierra Club  
member, HoCo Smarter Growth Alliance  
District 2

I speak for myself as a resident of Howard County and not on behalf of the State of Maryland or any boards/committees I am on.

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** CB11-2020 - Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Building Bill

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

**Dear Howard County Council member,**

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to BOTH problems.**

**CB11-2020 bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems.**

**Don't delay any longer—pass it now PLEASE.**

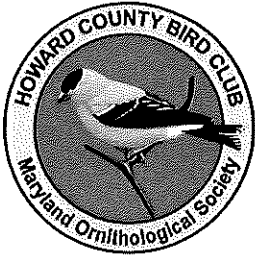
**I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

*Nancy McAllister  
12234 Etchison Rd.,  
Ellicott City, MD 21042*

*Vice chair  
Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)*

*“Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.”*

*-John Wesley*



# Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



June 12, 2020

BILL: CB-11-2020  
POSITION: Support

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) and its parent organization the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) support CB-11-2020. A recent peer-reviewed study showed that North American bird populations have fallen by 29% in the last five decades.<sup>1</sup> In 2014 a peer-reviewed study showed that building collisions kill up to one billion birds per year<sup>2</sup>, making bird strikes a significant contributor to the decline. Birds provide invaluable ecological services, through insect control, seed dispersal and pollination, scavenging and sanitary service.<sup>3</sup> Birding itself generates \$333 million per year in Maryland.<sup>4</sup> Birding provides wholesome outdoor activity, can be done virtually anywhere, even in one's own backyard during times of pandemic.

The issue of building strikes is one source of avian mortality, for which there are simple, and relatively inexpensive solutions, which also save energy. CB-11 makes bird-safe design features mandatory in the LEED certification for building permits. Bird-safe measures can be cost neutral if they are used in the design phase.<sup>5</sup> Bird-safe measures also reduce energy costs. This, in turn, reduces greenhouse gas

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<sup>1</sup> Rosenberg et al, Decline of the North American avifauna, Science 04 Oct 2019: For abstract, see: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120>

<sup>2</sup> Loss et al, Bird-building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability, Condor, January 2014, [http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/loss\\_et\\_al\\_bird-building\\_collisions\\_condor\\_2014.pdf](http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/loss_et_al_bird-building_collisions_condor_2014.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Sekercioglu, Cagan, Analysis: The Economic Value of Birds, All About Birds, June 12, 2017. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/analysis-the-economic-value-of-birds/>

<sup>4</sup> Maryland Ornithological Society, Birding Economics, accessed June 10, 2020, <https://birdersguidemddc.org/about-us/birding-economics/>

<sup>5</sup> American Bird Conservancy, Bird-Friendly Building Design, [https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Bird-Friendly-Building-Design\\_Updated-April-2019.pdf](https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Bird-Friendly-Building-Design_Updated-April-2019.pdf)

emissions. Climate change is another threat to birds, as well as humans, with two-thirds of North American bird species facing an increased risk of extinction as global temperatures rise.<sup>6</sup>

CB-11 will help save declining birds, and energy, while staying cost neutral. For these reasons, HCBC and MOS support CB-11 and ask that Howard County Council pass the bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Clark  
President  
Howard County Bird Club  
5153 Morningside Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-465-4061  
doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com

Kurt R. Schwarz  
Conservation Chair  
Howard County Bird Club  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
9045 Dunloggin Ct.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
443-538-2370 (cell)  
410-461-1643 (home)  
krschwal@verizon.net

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<sup>6</sup> Audubon, Climate Initiative, <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-initiative>



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Michele Wright <WrightM\_29067@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 7:48 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you!

Michele

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** merkfam2@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Support for CB11-2020

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

Dear Council Members

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Careful building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important and common sense step by Howard County to address these problems. Please don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.

I look forward to the passage and implementation of this bill. Thank you!

Arthur Merkle  
1940 Woodstock Road  
Woodstock MD 21163

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** merkfam2@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Dear Council Members

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Careful building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important and common sense step by Howard County to address these problems. Please don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.

I look forward to the passage and implementation of this bill. Thank you!

Arthur Merkle  
1940 Woodstock Road  
Woodstock MD 21163

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Chiara D'Amore <chiaradamore@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** support for CB11

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

Dear County Council,

I am writing in support of CB11. The building standards embodied in this bill would both conserve energy and reduce bird mortality by 90%. Howard County has a chance to act locally to save money, fight climate change, and reduce the unsustainable deaths of ecologically and economically important birds.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community,

Chiara

*Chiara D'Amore, Ph.D.*  
*President, The Community Ecology Institute*

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** kwcolston@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:57 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you for making Howard County a better place to live!

Kathy Colston

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** srbuswell@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

I support CB11-2020 Buildings. Glass buildings are killing millions of birds. They are also not energy efficient. Please pass CB11-2020 to help deal with both issues.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Buswell



# Audubon | MARYLAND-DC

2901 East Baltimore Street  
Box 2  
Baltimore, MD 21224

June 10, 2020

**Howard County Council**

**RE: CB11-2020 Bird-friendly Building Design**

**Position: Support**

This letter is to express our strong support for bill CB11-2020 and to underscore just how important this legislation is for both declining bird populations and energy conservation, and thus mitigating impacts of climate change. Audubon Maryland-DC is one of 22 state programs of the National Audubon Society with approximately 9,000 members in Maryland.

Building collisions, including window strikes, are responsible for around 1 billion wild bird deaths each year in the United States, which is a significant mortality factor on their populations. Migratory bird species are particularly vulnerable to building collisions because twice each year they travel through unfamiliar territory between their breeding and wintering areas. And it is migratory species that are most in need of conservation. In Baltimore, birds such as Baltimore Oriole and American Woodcock are among the species more often encountered killed or injured by window strikes.

Birds are important not only because they have recreational value for birdwatchers but also due to the contribution their popularity makes to the economy. Birds and birding are big business in Maryland. Tourists spend millions of dollars on wildlife and bird watching in the Free State, one of the most well-known and critical stopovers in the Mid-Atlantic Flyway. The art and history associated with this flyway make Maryland proud. Our Baltimore Ravens and Orioles are testimony to that.

Nationwide, 47 million birders spend nearly \$107 billion annually on travel and equipment-related expenditures associated with birding. This generates \$13 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue. These dollars are in addition to the more than 500 million tons of insects birds eat every year, and the pollination and seed dispersal they provide.

Bird-safe building designs not only reduce bird mortality but also reduced energy costs to building owners, in many cases taxpayers, through energy conservation. This also has the added benefit of mitigating climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Please support and pass CB11-2020.

David Curson, PhD

Director of Bird Conservation and Interim Executive Director  
Audubon Maryland-DC

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** john slater <jbs4993@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Mark Southerland  
**Subject:** CB 11- Bird-friendly Building Design Standards.

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

**Ref: CB 11- Bird-friendly Building Design Standards.**

I am writing to request your support for **CB11 – Bird-friendly Building Design Standards**. This bill will help protect birds from colliding with buildings made of glass and reduce energy costs. To knowingly allow birds to be killed – 1 billion birds per year in the USA – is criminal. To not save energy when you can is foolish.

Please **vote YES** to create bird friendly buildings that can help save the lives of birds and at the same time fight climate change.

Thank you.

John

John B. Slater  
4637 Willowgrove Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21042



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** KAREN O'STEEN <kposteen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the Howard County Council Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Buildings bill. Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings kill birds. Fortunately, building design and treated glass are excellent solutions to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Please don't delay any longer - pass it now. Howard County can be a leader in both energy and bird conservation. I care about both issues and I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards. Thank you. Karen Pelham O'Steen, 10817 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Diane <diane.eidelman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards. Please consider doing the same.**

Sincerely,  
Diane Eidelman

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Dan Southworth <dansouth2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:54 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

I support the much needed CB11-2020 bill to help save thousands and thousands of birds. Please vote for it, and thank you.

Dan Southworth

Sent from my iPhone

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Steve Mitchell <sailinnervoice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Despite what Trump says, windows in buildings kill far more birds than windmills. Given the decline in bird populations we need to take action now. Therefore I support passing this bill.

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Steve Mitchell  
Ellicott City, MD.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jo & Bob Solem <Odenata@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Pass CB11-2020

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

Members of the Howard County Council:

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.

Dr. Mark Southerland provided you with more than adequate reasons why this legislation is needed and why the architects of Maryland supported a comparable bill in the Maryland legislature.

Your were probably right in tabling the bill when it was introduced during the initial stages of COVID-19. That time has passed. It is time for you to pass this vitally necessary bill.

Joanne & Robert Solem  
10617 Graeoch Road  
Laurel, MD 20723  
(301) 725-5037  
[odenata@msn.com](mailto:odenata@msn.com)

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Julie Carignan <carignanjulia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Russell Schumann <rschumann.elder@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** howardbirds@howardbirds.website  
**Subject:** CB11-2020 - Howard County Council Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Buildings Bill

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

Dear Howard County Council Members:

It has been proven that glass buildings are energy sinks, they are energy inefficient, AND they also contribute to the injury and death of many birds. Changes in building design and the use of treated glass are excellent solutions to these problems. Bill CB11-2020 is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't' delay any longer, PLEASE pass this Bill now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards and I ask that you ALL support this Bill and pass it now. THANKS, I know that you'll make the right decision and pass it without further delay.

Regards,  
Russ Schumann  
HoCo Bird Club

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Nathan Baum <nathan.x.baum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Howard County needs to demonstrate strong leadership in developing a wide range of policies and initiatives to confront the deterioration of our climate and environment. One such effort is CB11-2020 as described as follows by the Howard County Bird Club.**

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you,

Nathan Baum  
Columbia, Maryland



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Cynthia Williams <cawilliams66@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB11 - Support

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

### **CB11 - Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Buildings – Support**

Please vote for the Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Buildings bill. This is an important bill for two reasons: the bill will create energy savings, which is important for our climate, and it will help birds because they will not lose their lives slamming into building windows and dying. Why do either of these matter?

**Energy savings:** Glass buildings cause more air conditioning to be required, which of course requires more energy, which costs more money. The problem also increases greenhouse gas emissions, which is very bad for our environment. The environmental challenges we face are already enormous. If we can make a small switch to building with a different kind of glass that still allows light in whilst saving energy, how can this not make sense? If other cities as large as Toronto and New York can do it, so should we.

**Bird Mortality:** Every year we lose one billion birds to collisions with buildings with glass windows. As with energy savings, birds are very important to our environment, and even to our food. Birds are pollinators, which means that they help flowered plants reproduce. Without birds, we would not have apple trees, for one example. They also bring a lot of money into the state/county by bringing birders here to watch birds.

Changing to bird safe glass is a win-win. The initial cost is nominal and pays for itself in the end with lower energy costs and saving the lives of birds. I may not be a scientist or an expert, but I know I love birds and I want a cleaner environment. This bill will help.

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Hi Council Members,

It is essential that we stop killing birds at such a ridiculous rate. There is no need for this and birds are a very important part of our ecosystem. We can do something about them running into our buildings.

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. **I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Please pass CB11-2020 as soon as possible.

Robin Hessey  
10768 McGregor Dr.  
Columbia MD 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Linda Roberts <llr5504@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards. Please do the right thing and pass the bill.

Thank you  
Linda Roberts  
Stephen Berzinskas  
9910 Ferndale Ave  
Columbia, Md 21046  
Sent from my iPhone

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** R DOYLE <gobikebob@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Please require bird friendly building designs in our county.

Bob Doyle  
President  
Rolling Acres Improvement Association

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Helen Ann Schwartz <helen.ann@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Birds are a precious part of our environment.  
Help keep them safe.

Thank you,  
Helen Ann Schwartz

Sent from my iPhone

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Gill Bentley <kayakleland@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Bird Safe &Energy Conservation

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

Council: As a Cty taxpayer & Howard Cty Bird Club member, it is time this Bill is passed. Gill Bentley Sent from my iPhone

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Rosemarie Eicker <dblbikes@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Rosemarie Eicker

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Jeffrey Friedhoffer <jafried@ieee.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jung, Deb  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

Thank you.  
Jeff Friedhoffer

Sent from my mobile



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Amy Anderson <amyanderson72@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

Dear Council Members,

Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings literally kill millions of birds because they see the reflection of the sky in the glass and don't realize they are going to collide with a building. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.

Amy Anderson  
12408 Benson Branch Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** tee goh <tgoh45@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020

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

**Glass buildings are energy sinks and glass buildings are killers of birds. Building design and treated glass are an excellent solution to both problems. This bill is an important step by Howard County to address these problems. Don't delay any longer—pass it now. I endorse the Howard County Bird Club's support of CB11-2020: Buildings - bird-friendly design standards.**

T. Goh

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Pat Hersey <trishhersey@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 6:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11

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

Dear Council Members,

I support CB11 because I care about the environment. Birds maintain sustainable population levels of their prey and predator species and, after death, provide food for scavengers and decomposers. Many birds are important with plant reproduction through their services as pollinators or seed dispersers.

Also, the reduction of energy consumption will aid with our uphill battle of reversing climate change.

Our Earth is a beautiful tapestry. We are all interconnected. Let's take care of each other.

Sincerely,  
Pat Hersey  
9462 Farewell Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21045

Sent from my iPad

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Ruth Auerbach <rauerb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB11

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

Dear Council members,

I support CB11, Bird Safe and Energy Conserving Building, because it addresses my concerns about climate change and biodiversity. I hope you will support it too.

Sincerely,

Ruth Auerbach  
9455 Clocktower On  
Columbia, MD 21046

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** grace kubofcik <gracek8@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** james kubofcik  
**Subject:** CB11-2020

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

Council members:

Appreciate the work you are doing. Asking simply to support CB 11 Bird Friendly Building design.

As a back yard birder for many years who feds them daily and has taught my grandchildren a lot about birds I urge you to adopt his legislation.

It is not difficult to design buildings to help protect birds. In fact such design is a double win in that it reduces energy use.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Grace Kubofcik  
Ellicott City MD

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2020 - bird friendly buildings

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

Dear Council Members,

Thank you, Chair Jung, for introducing this legislation. I hope that when the council removes CB11 from the table, it will pass. Bird-friendly buildings are a piece of a multi-systems approach we must take to create and maintain sustainable natural and human-built environments. The testimonies submitted by the National Aquarium, the Sierra Club, the Smarter Growth Alliance and others give plentiful scientific information to support this bill's passage.

There is no Planet B. To all of you who introduce or vote for legislation that recognizes that and attempts to safeguard the sustainability of our Earth, thank you.

All the best,  
Lisa Schlossnagle

**Sayers, Margery**

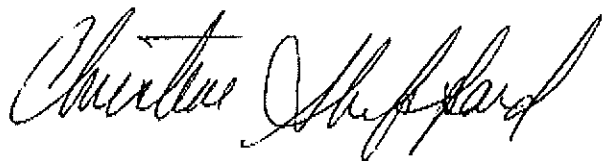
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**From:** Christine Sheppard <csheppard@abcbirds.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** written testimony for CB11  
**Attachments:** Sheppard testimony 2020.docx

[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

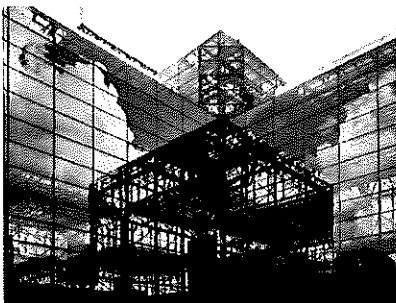
office 646 661 1862  
cell 914 261 8277

[collisions.abcbirds.org](http://collisions.abcbirds.org)

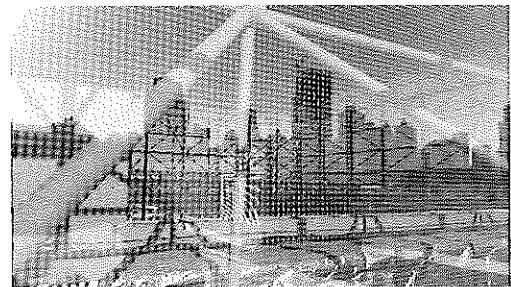


*Bringing back the birds*

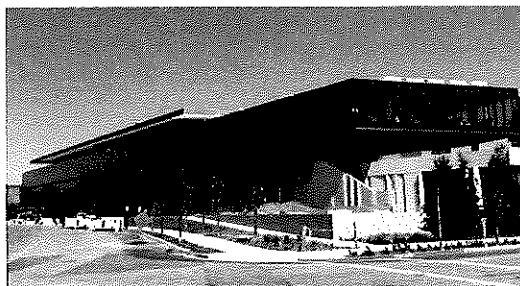
I'm Doctor Christine Sheppard, director of American Bird Conservancy's Glass Collisions Program. Thank you for allowing me to contribute my testimony. I've been working on this issue for over 20 years. People have been designing bird-friendly buildings as long as they have been building structures – 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

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**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

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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

**The Maryland Ornithological Society**  
Kurt Schwarz  
Conservation Chair

**Audubon Maryland-DC**  
David Curson  
Director of Bird Conservation

**Audubon Central MD**  
Morgan Lakey  
President

**Savage Community Association**  
Susan Garber  
Board Chair

**Howard County Citizens Association**  
Stu Kohn  
President

**Howard County Sierra Club**  
Carolyn Parsa  
Chair

**Preservation Maryland**  
Nicholas A. Redding  
Executive Director

**Transition Howard County**  
Margo Duesterhaus  
President

**Clean Water Action**  
Emily Ranson  
Maryland Program Coordinator

**The People's Voice, LLC**  
Lisa M. Markovitz  
President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

## Sayers, Margery

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**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](mailto:rfredriksson@aqua.org).

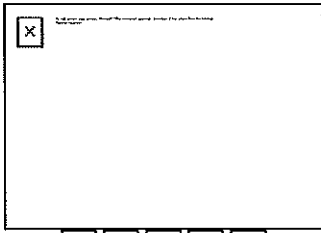
Thank you,  
Georgie Jones

### **GEORGIE JONES**

*External Affairs Coordinator*

☎ 410-576-3889 📠 410-986-2337

✉ [gjones@aqua.org](mailto: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)

🖨 Please consider our ocean planet before printing.



**aqua.org**



# NATIONAL AQUARIUM<sup>®</sup>

Date: March 16, 2020

Bill: CB11-2020

Position: Support

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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.

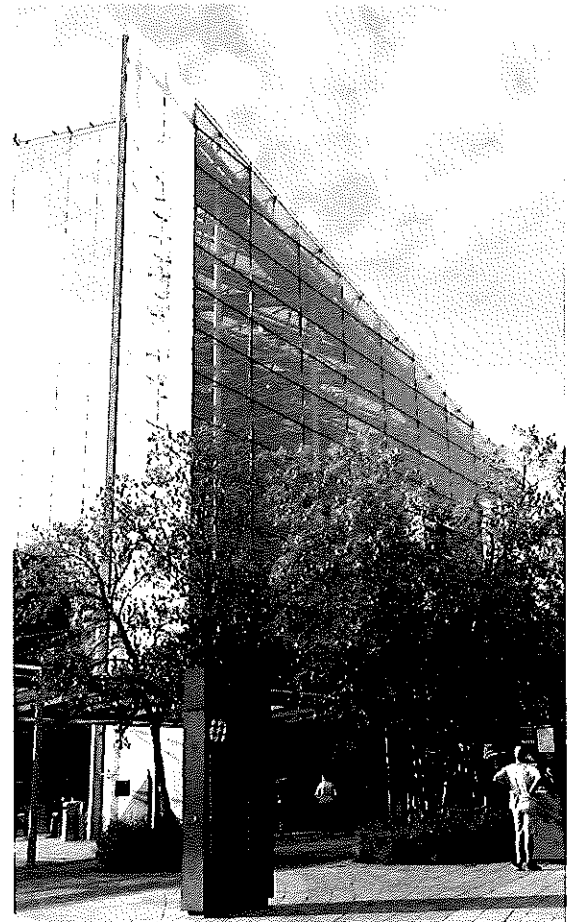
In the last two years, the National Aquarium has worked with our animal care experts to design and cover over 3,000 sq. ft of existing glass with bird-safe dot patterns. This includes the 1,300 sq. ft "wing wall", pictured here, that was responsible for over 70 percent of all bird strikes at the Aquarium. 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@aquarium.org



*National Aquarium "wing wall". Design credit: Ayers Saint Gross*

**Sayers, Margery**

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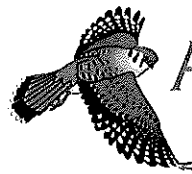
**From:** Julie Dunlap <juliejdunlap@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Morgan Lakey; Shannon Kennedy  
**Subject:** Testimony for CB11 from the Audubon Society of Central Maryland  
**Attachments:** AudubonCentralMDTestimonyCB11March162020 .docx

[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



# Audubon Society of CENTRAL MARYLAND

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



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Carolyn Parsa <carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Support for CB11-2020  
**Attachments:** CB11 HoCo Sierra Club Testimony.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,

I hope this email finds you all well, and thank you for all you are doing during these difficult times.

Please find the attached letter of support for CB11-2020 from the Howard County Sierra Club.

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Carolyn Parsa  
Sierra Club Howard County Chair

March 25, 2020



Sierra Club Howard County

RE: Support for CB11-2020 Bird Friendly Building Design

The Howard County Sierra Club supports CB11-2020 that would require new buildings which must be U.S. Green Building Council LEED certified to include credit 55 as one of their LEED credits.

Howard County has taken great strides in the path towards sustainability. Passing CB11 would be another step toward a sustainable Howard County that would benefit us twofold.

The implementation of LEED 55 would work towards preserving our bird diversity, not only in Howard County, but also along the entire Atlantic Flyway where birds migrate north and south. Maryland is a stopover for healthy migratory birds and it is our responsibility to make our urban habitat as safe for them as we can. Birds killed by collisions are often the healthiest birds that are an essential part of the breeding population. These losses are unsustainable, and Howard County should do its part to prevent them. Bird Safe Design measures are well researched by the American Bird Conservancy and very effective in reducing bird collisions. Additionally this technology is becoming more widespread in use, and can be cost neutral when incorporated at the design phase. This is the best time to implement these measures as they will be in place for the life of the building.

As a second benefit, these design changes covered under LEED 55 also have the added benefit of making the building more energy efficient. With the current design trend of using glass over the majority of the outer surface of buildings, we are learning that these buildings come with considerable heating and cooling costs. These buildings are often too hot, too cold, or too bright. The considerable glare is incompatible with our current use of computers, and many times, the building occupants draw the shades or blinds to improve their work environment. Under LEED 55, the choice is still available to have large windows, but to use treated glass which has built in protections for birds that also reduces glare and heat gain.

In summary, this passing this bill would benefit our bird population while helping reduce overall energy costs in building operations. On a local and global level protecting our birds is extremely important, as loss of biodiversity has been identified as one of the greatest current threats to humanity. We urge you to pass CB11-2020.

Carolyn Parsa  
Chair, Howard County Sierra Club

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Benji Gantz <bjg12311231@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 7:03 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Bill CB11 Support  
**Attachments:** CB11 Testimony.docx

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

Hello members of the Howard County Council,

My name is Benjamin Gantz, and I am in favor of passing proposed Howard County Bill CB11. This bill would require new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings in the county to implement specified window design features that would prevent bird window collisions.

I am a Carroll County resident and am representing the Phoenix Wildlife Center, based in Baltimore County. I have been a volunteer with the center for 3 years now, and have witnessed firsthand how much impact window collisions have on birds.

I have written a testimony in favor of passing CB11 and have attached it to this email.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Best,

Benjamin Gantz

## CB11 Testimony

My name is Benjamin Gantz, a volunteer wildlife caretaker at the Phoenix Wildlife Center in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am representing the Phoenix Wildlife Center and speaking in favor of passing bill CB11- Bird Friendly Building Design for New Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified buildings. This bill would require new LEED buildings in Howard County to implement specified bird friendly design features to prevent window collisions. Window collisions are a leading factor in the decline of North American bird populations. Birds have numerous benefits to both the environment and economy. A few of their important services include pest control, seed dispersal, and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. Birds are also an important part of tourism, including in Howard County. The diversity of unique species draws in birders and photographers.

I have been very fortunate in being able to volunteer with the Phoenix Wildlife Center, a 501 (c)3 non-profit dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of Maryland's wildlife. We receive a wide variety of wildlife species throughout the year from Howard County and other locations that need help from different situations. One issue in particular, window collisions, is responsible for a large majority of the birds brought in. This problem is at its greatest during spring and fall migration, when birds are making their way between wintering grounds and summer breeding sites. Many of the birds we receive during these times are found in Baltimore City. Volunteers with an organization called Lights out Baltimore (LOB) walk around the city regularly, picking up any birds that fall victim to window collisions. Unfortunately, many are killed. Those that aren't are brought in to the wildlife center where they are treated appropriately. Although many of the birds brought to us are from LOB, we also receive many calls from Howard County residents who have found window-struck birds. We tell each person the best course of action to take and then refer them to two other rehabilitation centers in the county. Howard County's major cities are expanding, and as the amount of infrastructure increases a higher number of birds would be killed. The situation would resemble what is occurring in Baltimore currently, with window-struck birds lining the sidewalks in need of help. This problem would be prevalent during migration, but would also be seen throughout the year in all of Howard County's expanding major cities.

During spring and fall, downed birds are put into brown paper bags for transport and to help them recover. It is not uncommon to see these bags filling incubators in the clinic. Although these birds are alive, not all of them can be saved. Their injuries from the collision are too severe. Others can be released, but are injured and require treatment. One of the most common injuries is brain trauma, and the birds must be medicated properly to heal them. Many of the birds only suffer from shock and after being allowed to stabilize and rest in the bag for several hours, they can be released. Some of the migratory bird species that we receive include American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds, and American Woodcocks. Some

species suffer from higher mortality from window collisions than others. Woodcocks are an example. This species is also one of the more common brought to us, and at times many have come in within just a few days. I remember at one point, in less than a weeks' time, around 10 individuals were brought to us. Woodcocks once nested in Howard County's Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, and were a favorite bird of Columbia's founder, James Rouse. But today they face serious population declines from habitat loss in much of their range. These often fatal collisions further erode the wild population. And it is important to note that the collision victims we receive are otherwise healthy birds that could have reproduced if they had not crashed into windows.

Window collisions occur throughout the state and are more likely to occur in urban areas with large buildings. However, they can also occur in less populated suburban areas. Passing bill CB11 would save the lives of many birds by preventing them from colliding with windows of new county LEED buildings. This would be especially important for migratory birds making their way through Howard County, and it would also make a difference for our resident bird species. Not only would the window design standards in CB11 benefit birds, they would also increase the cooling efficiency of the buildings during summer. Since window collisions are a major contributor to bird declines, passing this bill would make a big difference. Howard County has already retrofitted certain buildings to make them bird friendly, examples include the Howard County Conservancy building and Howard Community College. There are also new county buildings planned that will eliminate the risk of window collisions. Passing CB11 would further protect our birds. I ask that you support bill CB11- Bird Friendly Building Design for New Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings.

Thank you,

Benjamin Gantz

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Mark Southerland <mark.t.southerland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** CB11 Testimony  
**Attachments:** CB11 Testimony of Dr Mark Southerland for CB11 Blrd Friendly Standards  
3March2020.docx

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

Howard County Council,

Please consider my testimony in support of CB11-2020 Bird-friendly building design.

Thank you,

Mark Southerland, Ph.D.

## CB11 – Bird-friendly Building Design Standards

### TESTIMONY OF DR. MARK SOUTHERLAND

I am the Legislative Director of Safe Skies Maryland and a professional ecologist who has served with Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board, Howard County Conservancy, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Maryland Academy of Sciences' Science Council, and Maryland Water Monitoring Council.

Two events brought me to conceiving and advocating for this bill:

1. Glass Buildings as Energy Sinks. As a scientist working in the fields of energy conservation and green buildings, I was struck by the exponential growth of buildings with extensive glass facades. I realized that these majority glass buildings would be an energy sink and erode the energy conservation gains from decades of green building policies. While the extensive use of glass was originally considered green, because it reduced the need for artificial lighting, technological advances in LED lighting meant that the heat gain from windows and the need for additional air conditioning far outweighed the benefits. If future building was dominated by extensive glass facades, then we were setting up society for increasing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions for decades.

2. Glass Buildings as Killers of Birds. As a consultant to Maryland DNR on the licensing of windpower turbines, I learned that, while we could avoid major bird mortality at windpower turbines (with proper lighting and siting), building glass was a thousand times much larger killer of birds. Then I witnessed the construction of the first of several new large glass buildings being built in Downtown Columbia and realized that we were creating a deathtrap for birds migrating through our community. I realized that, as the number of glass buildings statewide and nationwide was growing rapidly, bird deaths from building collisions was about to become much worse.

Win-Win Solution. Most importantly, I learned that both problems were easily solvable. The building standards embodied in this bill would both conserve energy and reduce bird mortality by 90%. So, I was compelled to act and, working with bill sponsors, Senators Guzzone and Lam, Delegate Hill, and now Councilwoman Jung, Safe Skies Maryland began efforts to solve this problem at the state and local level.

Here is a summary of the problem and the solution:

#### **This is an important problem with existing solutions and a diverse concerned citizenry**

1. The number of majority glass buildings is increasing exponentially, setting up society for long-term energy costs as building envelopes will be in place or at least 50 years.
  - There are no daylighting or energy benefits with window-to-wall ratios over 60 percent, and in most cases an area of 25-40 percent is optimum, i.e., lowest energy consumption
  - When glass treated to be bird friendly is used, energy loss is much reduced

2. 1 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 economic driver through pest control and tourism (Maryland receives \$333 million in revenue from bird watching each year)
  
3. Building design and treated glass are an existing solution
  - Flight tunnel tests have demonstrated the degree of safety provided by different kinds of glass
  - 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
  - Green Business Council LEED program has codified a bird-friendly building pilot credit 55 which is the basis of CB11
  
4. Bird Safe Building designs and retrofits are 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, Howard County Conservancy, Robinson Nature Center, Gateway Building, Howard Community College, and private buildings others are retrofitting their glass to be bird friendly
  
5. Bird Safe Building laws are being implemented
  - Mandatory laws are already in place in Minnesota, New York City, San Francisco CA, Oakland CA, Palo Alto CA, Highland Park IL, Cook County IL, Ontario Province, Toronto, and Markham, Canada, with voluntary laws in other places
  - Proposed laws are also being considered in US House (a bi-partisan bill) and US Senate, as well as Washington DC and other cities
  - In Maryland, HB192 and SB299 are expected to pass the General Assembly this year and Montgomery, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties are considering similar laws

**Howard County has a chance to act locally to save money, fight climate change, and reduce the unsustainable deaths of economically important birds. Waiting even one year will see more glass buildings built and more money lost, more greenhouse gas emissions, and more birds dying.**



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Todes.judith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** District 4 - Bird safe bill

**First Name:** Judith  
**Last Name:** Todes  
**Email:** [Todes.judith@gmail.com](mailto:Todes.judith@gmail.com)  
**Street Address:** 10738 SYMPHONY WAY  
**City:** COLUMBIA  
**Subject:** Bird safe bill  
**Message:** Thank you for this bill. We need to safeguard birds.