

On May 18th, 2015, AAS signed on to the following letter authored by the American Bird Conservancy.

Subject: Please Cosponsor the 2015 Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act

Dear [Representative],

I am writing to ask you to cosponsor Representatives Quigley and Griffith's 2015 Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act, HR 2280, which would help prevent the deaths of millions of birds by including bird-safe building materials and design features across federal buildings.

Birds have intrinsic, cultural, and ecological value to Americans. Birdwatching alone contributes \$36 billion to the U.S. economy each year. However, collisions with glass claim hundreds of millions of bird lives each year in the U.S. Birds that have successfully flown thousands of miles on migration can then die in seconds on a pane of glass. Because glass is dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, as well as sick or young birds, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations.

New construction can incorporate bird-friendly design strategies from the beginning without any additional costs. There are many ways to reduce mortality from existing buildings, with more solutions being developed all the time. Because the science is constantly evolving, and because we will always wish for more information than we have, the temptation is to postpone action -- but we can't wait to act. We have the tools and the strategies to make a difference now. Architects, designers, city planners, and legislators are key to solving this problem. They not only have access to the latest building construction materials and concepts, they are also thought leaders and trend setters in the way we build our communities and prioritize building design issues.

Many architecture firms have already expressed their support for the 2015 Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act. This bill is designed to prevent the deaths of millions of birds by calling for each public building constructed, acquired, or significantly altered by the General Services Administration (GSA) to incorporate, to the maximum extent possible, bird-safe building materials and design features. Many buildings constructed by GSA are already, in fact, bird-friendly. The legislation would require GSA to take similar actions on existing buildings, where practicable. The bill is simple, cost neutral legislation that will protect millions of birds.

To support this important legislation, please contact:
Alexandra Vecchio at Alexandra.Vecchio@mail.house.gov

Thank you for considering this request to cosponsor HR 2280 and protect millions of birds across America.