

June 7, 2016

The Honorable Lou Barletta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Development,
Public Buildings, and Emergency
Management
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
586 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andre Carson
Ranking Member
Economic Development, Buildings, and
Energy Management Subcommittee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
592 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barletta and Ranking Member Carson:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and 128 members of the Bird Conservation Alliance, we urge you to favorably markup H.R. 2280: the Federal Bird Safe-Buildings Act of 2015. This noncontroversial, cost-neutral bill, introduced by Rep. Mike Quigley (IL) and Rep. Morgan Griffith (VA) will help the United States continue to meet our international obligations to protect over 800 species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (USC Title 16, Chapter 7, Subchapter II), as well as the federal commitment under Executive Orders 13186.

H.R. 2280 is a cost neutral bill that will prevent the deaths of millions of birds that collide with windows at thousands of federal buildings across the country. The bill calls for each public building constructed, altered, and acquired by the General Services Administration (GSA) to meet to the maximum extent feasible, standards regarding placement of glass materials. The legislation would also require the GSA to reduce exterior building and site lighting for each public building, where practicable.

As you may know, migratory birds are not only beautiful and interesting creatures eagerly welcomed by millions of Americans into their backyards every year; they help generate billions of dollars annually to the U.S. economy through wildlife watching activities, and they also help our farmers by consuming billions of harmful insect pests from many important commercial food crops and forests. According to the 2011 US Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey on Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation, Americans spend about \$40 billion annually in pursuit of birding activities. About one in five Americans – approximately 47 million people - engage in bird watching generating approximately \$7 billion in federal and \$6 billion in state tax revenues. It is estimated that between three hundred million to one billion birds or more die each year from collisions with glass on buildings – from skyscrapers to residential homes. While this legislation is limited to federal buildings, we believe it's a very good start that perhaps can lead to more widespread applications of bird-friendly designs elsewhere.

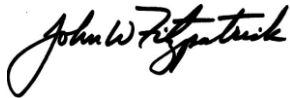
We hope that your committee immediately moves H.R. 2280 directly to mark up, and further request your support for advancing the bill to the suspension calendar.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darin Schroeder with American Bird Conservancy at dschroeder@abcbirds.org or at 202-888-7476 with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



George Fenwick
President



John W. Fitzpatrick
Director Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Bird Conservation Alliance Members:

1. Acopian Center for Ornithology, Muhlenberg College
2. Akron Zoological Park
3. Alabama Ornithological Society
4. Alberta Wilderness Association
5. Allegheny Highlands Alliance
6. American Birding Association
7. Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
8. SeaWorld San Antonio
9. Audubon Colorado Council Conservation Committee
10. Audubon Connecticut
11. Audubon Naturalist Society
12. Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
13. Audubon Zoo
14. Azua & Associates
15. Baltimore Bird Club
16. Bedford Audubon Society
17. Bexar Audubon Society
18. Bird Conservation Network
19. Bird-Safe Glass Foundation

20. BirdsCaribbean
21. Black River Audubon Society
22. Western Cuyahoga Audubon
23. Boseman Birders
24. Californians for Western Wilderness
25. Campus Collisions
26. Center for Education and Research in Construction, University of Washington
27. Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
28. Chicago Audubon Society
29. City Wildlife
30. Council for Environmental Education
31. Crescent Bird Club
32. Delmarva Ornithological Society
33. Eagle Conservation Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania
34. Eastern Long Island Audubon Society
35. Ecology Center of Southern California
36. Endangered Habitats League
37. Rife Island Raptor Enumerators
38. Foothills Audubon Club
39. Fort Collins Audubon Society
40. Friends of Dyke Marsh
41. FXFOWLE Architects
42. Golden Gate Audubon Society
43. Grand Valley Audubon Society
44. Great Hollow Nature Preserve
45. Great Old Broads for Wilderness
46. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
47. Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History
48. Houston Audubon
49. Huachuca Audubon Society
50. Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
51. Indiana Birders
52. International Dark-Sky Association of Florida
53. International Ornithologists' Union
54. Iowa Audubon
55. Jackson Zoological Society
56. John Burroughs Natural History Society
57. Kachemak Bay Birders
58. Kachemak Crane Watch
59. Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful
60. Kestrel Land Trust, MA

61. Kettle Range Conservation Group
62. Lane County Audubon Society
63. Lehigh Valley Audubon Society
64. Leo Model Foundation
65. Louisiana Birders Anonymous
66. Louisiana Ornithological Society
67. Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
68. Maguari-One Zoo and Wildlife Consultants
69. Midwest Environmental Advocates
70. Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
71. Moody Gardens, TX
72. MWA Architects
- 73. Natural Resources Defense Council**
74. New Hampshire Audubon
75. New York City Audubon
76. North Lakeland Discovery Center
77. Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
78. Orleans Audubon Society
79. Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc.
80. Rainier Audubon Society
81. Raptors Are the Solution
82. Riveredge Nature Center
83. Roanoke Valley Bird Club
84. Roaring Fork Audubon
85. Rochester Birding Association
86. Rockbridge Bird Club
87. Rogue Valley Audubon Society
88. Salem Audubon Society
89. San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
90. San Diego Audubon Society
91. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
92. Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
93. Santa Barbara Audubon Society
94. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
95. Sarasota Audubon Society
96. Save Our Allegheny Ridges
97. Sea and Sage Audubon Society
98. Seaside Farms
99. Second Chance Wildlife Center
100. Solar Alliance Network
101. South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society

102. Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
103. St. Petersburg Audubon Society
104. State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry
105. Steinhart Aquarium
106. Sycamore Audubon Society
107. Tennessee Ornithological Society
- 108. The Humane Society of the United States**
109. The Institute for Bird Populations
110. The Nature Conservancy, PA
111. The Urban Wildlands Group
112. The Zoological Lighting Institute
113. Tucson Audubon Society
114. Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.
115. Washington Crossing Audubon Society
116. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
117. Western Nebraska Resources Council
118. White Mountain Audubon Society
119. Wildbird Recovery
120. WildEarth Guardians
121. Wildlife Research Institute
122. Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
123. Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
124. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
125. Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
126. Yuma Audubon Society
127. Zoo Knoxville
128. Zumbro Valley Audubon

