



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH
STUDENT GOVERNMENTS THE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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C.R. 23.24.04

Implementation of Collision Prevention Window Treatments
on New Buildings

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Sponsors:

Whereas, the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments at Pennsylvania State University acknowledges the University's work in reducing bird-window collision related mortality on the Pennsylvania State University Campus. However, the problem remains largely unresolved, and action must be taken to address this issue.

Whereas, a student led report in the summer of 2022 recorded that 350 birds were found around the University Park campus, and as the report details, the actual number of deaths is much higher than this. With an estimated 29% loss of abundance in North America since 1970, protecting wild birds on campus is important to maintaining biodiversity in State College and the commonwealth campuses. As many as 1 billion birds per year in the United States from colliding with buildings because birds mistake reflections of open skies or nearby vegetation for the real counterpart.

Whereas, bird fatalities from collisions with windows account for the second biggest threat to birds in America, with feral and free-roaming cats being the first. Many university windows are highly reflective and do not allow bird species to differentiate between the surface and the open air.

Whereas, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments acknowledges the potential for our institution to serve as a model for other educational

institutions and communities in addressing the issue of bird-window collisions, thereby contributing to the development of sustainable and wildlife-friendly urban environments, and encouraging responsible practices for the welfare of both human and avian populations.

Be it resolved, To support the Pennsylvania State University's efforts to maintain biodiversity across its campuses, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments at Pennsylvania State University, strongly recommends the implementation of collision prevention window treatments to be applied to new buildings.

Respectfully,

Evan Grim

University Park, CCSG Associate Sustainability Director

Council Action

Vote 16:15:0 Pass: Fail: Postponed:

Presidential Action

Approved: Veto: Date: 11/4/2023



References

- BirdSafe. (2017). Bird-Safe Window Options. BirdSafe & FLAP Canada.
<https://birdsafecanada.org/window-options/>
- Jessick, C. (2022). *Assessing the Frequency of Bird-Window Collision Related Mortality on the Pennsylvania State University Campus*. State College : Bird Collisions PSU.
- Loss, S. R., Will, T., Loss, S. S., & Marra, P. P. (2014). Bird–building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability. *The Condor*, 116(1), 8–23. <https://doi.org/10.1650/condor-13-090.1>
- Runwal, P. (2020). Building Collisions Are a Greater Danger for Some Birds Than Others. *Audubon Magazine*.