

# The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



**TESTIMONY Before the COMMITTEE of the WHOLE**  
**Public hearing on**  
**Bill 24-710 Migratory Local Wildlife Protection Act of 2022**  
**Bill 24-785 Green Government Buildings Amendment Act of 2022**  
**2022 October 21**

***Founded 1923***

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Dear Chairman Mendelson,

My name is Beth Purcell. I'm testifying on behalf of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, a planning and preservation advocacy organization that was founded nearly a century ago. The Committee of 100 strongly supports Bill 24-710 Migratory Local Wildlife Protection Act of 2022 and Bill 24-785 Green Government Buildings Amendment Act of 2022.

We think of the District as an urban area. But in fact, the District is home to an average of 230 bird species year-round. The District is also on the Atlantic flyway, (pictured below) and attracts thousands of migrating birds every spring and fall, that stop here to rest and feed before continuing their journey. More than 60 species breed in the District, and its rivers are wintering locations for thousands of waterfowl. Collisions with glass account for many bird deaths, estimated as between 100 million and one billion deaths per year, by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (2002). DOEE's Wildlife Action Plan (2015) agrees with these findings. Bird deaths from collisions can also affect the viability of bird populations. Nearly one-third of bird species has been documented to be victims of collisions with buildings. Deaths of migrating birds include some of the strongest healthiest birds, who otherwise would have survived to breed.

DC is undergoing a construction boom - many multi-story buildings are planned. See [Pipeline \(urbanturf.com\)](http://Pipeline(urbanturf.com)). The time to protect birds is now. The proposed acts protect birds by mandating bird-friendly glass, a proven cost-effective measure used in other forward-thinking cities. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The Atlantic Flyway, running through the District of Columbia, is in purple. This is a map of [waterfowl flyways](#) in the United States based loosely on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps and originally published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cartography done by [Karl Musser](#). "Atlantic

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Flyway," Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 27 Sept. 2022.

