

Dear [insert official's name],

Please allow me to introduce myself, I'm [insert your name], a constituent of your community, and I would like to talk with you about establishing Lights Out in [insert name of community]. A Lights Out program will make our community more bird-friendly while also supporting our sustainability goals by reducing energy usage.

Because many birds migrate at night using natural light cues like the moon and stars, bright lights and sky glow can confuse them, causing some to collide with windows and walls while others circle in confusion until exhaustion overcomes them. From our best current scientific understanding, millions of birds die in the U.S. every year because of this. Fortunately, a simple thing like turning out lights can help birds navigate our environment and protect them from unnecessary harm. A landmark study conducted by the Field Museum in Chicago showed that by turning the lights off in one building, the number of birds killed there dropped by over 80 percent.

What can we do here? Participating in Lights Out is simple, building managers only need to:

- Turn off unnecessary lighting (especially near the tops of buildings)
- Put necessary lighting on timers or use motion sensors
- Make sure external lighting is down shielded
- Dim or extinguish lobby or atrium lighting

It is particularly important to take these measures between the hours of midnight and sunrise (when most night migrants are flying) and during spring and fall migration periods (April/May and September/October).

In addition to helping birds, these efforts have the additional benefits of reducing energy usage and saving money. Communities across the country from Atlanta to St. Paul to Portland, Oregon have seen the benefits and implemented Lights Out. Can I count on you to support and lead efforts to implement Lights Out here in our community?

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this request. By making these simple changes in your [name of community] we truly can have a positive impact on the birds that share our community.

Sincerely,

[insert your name]