

Public Comments for Washington Union Station Lighting Upgrades

Total comments: 61

March 4, 2026 2:03 pm

Name: Patricia Welty

Date: March 1, 2026 2:41:00 pm

As a person who frequents Union Station I see no need to increase the lighting. It harms many birds, creates light pollution, and uses more energy than needed.

Name: Michelle Kleinhans

Date: March 1, 2026 4:43:36 pm

Hello, I am disturbed by the lighting plans at Union Station because it would be very harmful to migratory songbirds. Most birds migrate at night, and the station is in a migration route. Lights confuse the birds, causing them to collide with reflections in windows. Every year we find thousands of dead birds due to window collisions during the night time hours. I hope you will vote against this project. It's okay to have darkness at nighttime.

Name: Devan Samant

Date: March 2, 2026 12:45:14 pm

Hello - I am writing to respectfully request you revise the Union Station lighting plan for several reasons.

First, the proposed plan is not considerate of the impacts to birds, insects, and nocturnal animals. These creatures rely on natural light (or the absence of it) for routine functions, and we are seeing a drastic decline in populations due to light pollution, among other factors. Illumination could be confined to the areas where people are - the walkways and ground and not the sky. By adding shielding to the tops and sides of lightposts, we can reduce the detrimental impact to the birds that make DC a wonderful place.

Second, the building does not need to be illuminated at night - it is quite pretty as-is. I understand a desire to showcase Union Station, but it does not need to look like it does during the day. The contrast is actually more impactful, and the proposed exterior (and indoor) lighting is gaudy in my opinion. I would even argue that less artificial light adds to the historic quality. What we will get with this plan is a sterile, clinical effect like a hospital. I will also note that the proposed images in the plan have doctored the night sky to add stars for an enhanced visual effect, but the night sky will be even less visible with additional lighting. This is misleading stargazers and the public and a disingenuous comparison.

Third, additional lighting will also increase the cost and maintenance of the area. Energy prices have been on the rise and are only expected to increase further in the near future given supply and demand. I understand the plan involves more efficient lights, but if overall usage is higher, we have a case of Jevons paradox. Additional demand during non-peak hours and when solar energy is not available may require fossil resources to turn on which would not align with the sustainability goals cited in the project summary. Please consult with energy market experts and quantify the impacts.

To end, we have a chance to be unique in our design and our considerations and set a model for other cities to look up to. Please do not rush on this. Thank you for your time.

Name: Hunter Raab

Date: March 3, 2026 3:34:20 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I'm writing today to express my concern as a frequent bird-monitoring volunteer throughout DC on the dangers these lighting upgrades can cause. As I am sure you all are well aware of, every spring and fall millions of birds migrate above our heads. Flying hundreds of miles at night. But what you may not know is that the area immediately around Union Station is one of, if not the deadliest areas in all of DC for these birds. Disoriented by the long wavelengths of light our city lights produce, they get thrown off course and find themselves within DC. This is not always a problem. But, with many of the buildings around Union Station consisting of mostly glass (which birds can't recognize) and either reflecting vegetation, or showcasing vegetation inside, these buildings — as our data indicates every year — kill more migrating birds than any other area we monitor.

To prevent this problem from worsening I'm asking the NCPC and Union Station team to prevent any increase in skyglow from these upgrades. To do this can be as simple as installing shielding fixtures on the upgraded streetlights, angling lights down instead of up, and/or utilizing timers or sensors wherever applicable. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out via the provided email.

Sincerely,
Hunter Raab

Name: Madeline Gitomer

Date: March 3, 2026 7:23:08 pm

I live near union station and I oppose additional upward lighting. We live in an area with very high bird deaths and I have not seen an adequate explanation for why such light is necessary. Please prevent any upward light. Thank you.

Name: Anthony Rivera

Date: March 3, 2026 7:24:48 pm

To the Planning Commission,

I'm writing to oppose adding large-scale exterior façade lighting to Union Station. I understand the desire to modernize and improve the station's image, but turning the building into a bright nighttime landmark would increase light pollution in the core of the city and create real harm for birds.

I'm an ecology graduate and spent years studying birds in the field, including work at the Harvard Forest and in South India's tropical dry evergreen forests. I now work in community development for a financial institution, but I'm commenting as a resident and someone who has seen how artificial night lighting disrupts wildlife. Bright architectural washes and uplighting can disorient migrating birds, pull them toward lit structures, and increase collision risk. It also disrupts local bird behavior by changing the nighttime environment.

Union Station is already a landmark. Public safety goals can be met without lighting the full façade. If safety is the priority, please focus on targeted, human-scale lighting at the ground level—walkways, entrances, and drop-off areas—rather than dramatic façade illumination or ceremonial color displays.

If any exterior lighting is approved, I urge you to require strong bird-safe and dark-sky protections: no uplighting or full façade washes; fully shielded fixtures aimed downward; limits on brightness; warm color temperatures (ideally 2700K or lower); and strict curfews/dimming so non-essential lighting is off late at night. Seasonal limits during spring and fall migration should also be included.

Please protect local birds and avoid adding unnecessary, high-intensity lighting. The station is fine as-is, and improvements can be made without creating an ecological cost.

Name: Jada Mevs

Date: March 3, 2026 7:28:41 pm

Please install shielding fixtures to prevent any unnecessary upward facing light.

Name: Rebecca Talisman

Date: March 3, 2026 7:29:24 pm

I'm a DC resident and avid birdwatcher, writing to ask that we take a few steps to prevent negative health impacts on our local wildlife. Please minimize upward-facing lighting and include shielding fixtures wherever possible. This will reduce light pollution, lowering the risk of bird strikes on the building. (Not to mention, lower light pollution is good for human health too!) It's a small adjustment that can have a big effect on our whole local ecosystem, down to our smallest residents.

Name: Alexandra Munzing

Date: March 3, 2026 7:29:53 pm

Please prevent upward facing light. It will endanger migrating birds.

Name: Natalie Blum

Date: March 3, 2026 7:44:51 pm

Please install shielding fixtures and prevent unnecessary upward facing light to protect our birds! We are already losing bird populations at an alarming rate due to light pollution, habitat loss, chemical poisoning and more. Birds are essential to our urban ecosystem and we must do what we can to make our city more hospitable to them!

Name: Miriam Julianna Sutton

Date: March 3, 2026 7:46:22 pm

Please think of the birds as you work on your lighting plan. DC Bird Alliance and bird living Washingtonians ask you to plan for shielding features and eliminate any unnecessary upward facing lights.

Name: Charles Kistenbroker

Date: March 3, 2026 7:46:26 pm

Union Station and the surrounding area currently has one of the highest rates of bird building collisions every year. Increasing light pollution will attract more birds and increase fatality rates, as well as confuse birds during migration. Please DO NOT include upward facing lights. Please install shielding fixtures to prevent any unnecessary upward facing lights.

Name: Sophie Aliferis

Date: March 3, 2026 8:02:32 pm

Hello,

I am a biologist and resident of the greater DC area. I am very concerned by the recent proposal to add extensive new outdoor lighting to Union Station. Birds rely on natural light for migration, and outdoor lights have been shown to nationally cause mortality in the scale of billions of individuals. Lights Out DC has been doing good work to inform people of the benefit to migratory birds by minimizing lights kept on at night. I urge the committee to reconsider this plan which would an undue burden on the wildlife that uses DC.

Sincerely,
Sophie Aliferis

Name: Melissa Rogers

Date: March 3, 2026 8:03:39 pm

I am against adding excessive lighting to the exterior of Union Station. It is entirely unnecessary and will only result in even more deaths of migratory birds. There are cost effective ways to upgrade building aesthetics that take birds into account rather than accept that corpses littering the ground is acceptable. Please use your power to do better.

Name: Thomas Gallagher

Date: March 3, 2026 8:24:02 pm

This outdoor night lighting is excessive and unnecessary. The harm it will do to the environment, especially vulnerable bird populations here in this part of the district, is too high. This proposal should not be passed. Specialists should be consulted about the harm these lights will cause.

Name: Jennifer Howard

Date: March 3, 2026 8:41:40 pm

Dear NCPC,

I am a native Washingtonian and longtime resident of Capitol Hill. I'm also a birder and former staffer at an environmental group devoted to bird conservation. In that job, I became aware of how deadly light pollution is to birds, especially during migration.

Millions of migrating native birds pass through Washington, DC every spring and fall; they travel mostly at night, and far too many of them fall victim to building collisions, especially in brightly lit areas with a lot of light pollution. That includes the area surrounding Union Station. It's one of the deadliest collision spots in DC, as the sobering data collected by DC City Wildlife's Lights Out program demonstrates every spring and fall.

Any increase in light pollution and nighttime glow around the station will result in even more bird deaths. With many of North America's bird populations in steep decline, it's imperative that we mitigate the losses when we can.

The NCPC has a chance to do just that by requiring that any lighting upgrades at and around Union Station face downward. That will minimize the risks to migrating birds while also making sure that the area around the station is safe for people. It's a win-win solution.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Howard

Name: Diana Fuentes

Date: March 3, 2026 8:48:09 pm

Hello,

My name is Diana Fuentes and I am a long time DC resident. I am completely appalled by the idea of adding additional lighting to Union Station at night. As a DC licensed wildlife rehabilitator, I can tell you from first hand experience that birds that collide with glass are not just stunned or disoriented. They suffer critical life threatening injuries. Some suffer

eye ruptures, or break their beaks, necks, skulls, wings or legs from the impact. Many of them suffer multiple injuries and have no choice but to die a slow death on the ground. Bird flocks fly through the city by the thousands and can be easily disoriented by light because they use the stars to navigate during migration. Please keep Union Station from becoming a hotter window-strike location by preventing the new installation of lights.

Thank you,

Diana Fuentes

Name: Katherine Davey

Date: March 3, 2026 8:49:16 pm

Please work to make this area safer for our bird population and more pleasant for our people by preventing bird collisions with bird-safe lighting (not upward facing or not appropriately shielded). This is already an area of many bird collisions and fatalities and changes in lighting that are not bird safe will attract more birds and increase immediate area fatalities - bad for our ecosystem and the aesthetic of this important portal to DC.

Name: Mark Sledziewski

Date: March 3, 2026 9:03:46 pm

With the immediate area already having one of the highest building collision rates in DC it's important that we do what we can to mitigate light pollution. Things like installing shielding fixtures to prevent any unnecessary upward facing light, and choosing warmer color temperatures (<2700 Kelvin), and limiting lighting to necessary times only, all help protect migrating birds. Installing these features from the start (although not explicitly covered) would support the goals outlined in the D.C. Law 24-337 (Migratory Local Wildlife Protection Act of 2022). Even the US Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that "Lighting can attract large numbers of night-migrating birds from as far as 5 kilometers away. Once drawn in, birds often circle the illuminated area, wasting critical energy needed for migration and increasing their risk of collisions with buildings and other structures." (Threats to Birds: Collisions (Nighttime Lighting), USFWS). In fact, in a recent 2024 study, titled "Rehabilitation outcomes of bird-building collision victims in the Northeastern United States" (Kornreich, Partridge, Youngblood, and Parkins) "suggest(s) that overall collision mortality estimates based on carcass collection far exceed one billion birds in the U.S. each year." Install lighting that would be protective of our at-risk avian friends!

Name: Cassidy Strohl

Date: March 3, 2026 9:05:41 pm

As you move forward with Union Station's upgraded lighting project, please consider installing shielding fixtures and preventing unnecessary upward facing light. The area surrounding Union Station sees some of the highest levels of bird collisions every year. An increase in light pollution resulting from the proposed design would likely lead to an increase in collisions and fatalities. Please consider taking steps to limit additional light pollution in the area.

Name: Anja Modeste

Date: March 3, 2026 9:11:03 pm

To whom this may concern,

I am writing as a concerned volunteer from City Wildlife, the local wildlife rehabilitation center in the district, to say that I am greatly opposed to the light upgrades that are being planned at Union Station. As you may be aware, millions of birds migrate through Washington DC each year. As they fly over, these birds navigate at night using the moon and stars as landmarks. Illuminated structures at night are a major threat to these birds as they mistake them for landmarks and crash into them. If this plan goes forward, it will become yet another hazard to these migrating birds. As such, I ask that you reconsider this decision or at least take steps to reduce the risks of bird strikes in that area.

Name: Rebecca Wardall

Date: March 3, 2026 9:29:18 pm

Hello,

I am an apprentice wildlife rehabilitator in Washington, D.C. The area surrounding Union Station already has an extremely high rate of bird collisions due to artificial lighting, which can be devastating for our native migrating bird species. I am strongly opposed to the proposed lighting changes to Union Station for this reason. I believe we should be working to protect the species that help make our city beautiful, rather than adding to their existing burdens. If there are to be increases in lighting, I urge you to consider installing shielding fixtures and how upward facing light might be prevented as a part of this project.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Wardall

Name: Amelia Catalano

Date: March 3, 2026 9:44:17 pm

Hello,

Please consider installing lighting shielding fixtures to prevent excess and unnecessary upward-facing lights.

Name: Matthew Miller

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:45 pm

Please install shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light prevent any unnecessary upward facing light to reduce the possibility of bird strikes.

Name: Abigail Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 9:58:09 pm

I have concerns about the level of lighting proposed for this project. Union Station has considerable bird loss due to window strikes. My concern is that the increased level of lighting will further contribute to bird deaths. Any lighting changes should have down facing lights and work within the lights out DC campaign and the DC bird alliance.

Name: Allie Wilson

Date: March 3, 2026 10:10:56 pm

Please install shielding fixtures and prevent any and all upward facing light. Light pollution is horrible already, and an increase of light pollution will impact even more birds leading to more wildlife fatalities. Protect our night sky and the birds!

Name: Logan Walser

Date: March 3, 2026 10:14:24 pm

Please install shielded fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light to decrease light pollution and bird collisions.

Name: Jacky Chang

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:42 pm

I'm concerned about the proposed upgrades creating more light pollution and posing a serious risk to our local bird population. While parts of the proposal state that the goal is to reduce light emission into the night sky, other parts of the proposal seem to clearly add significant amounts of upward facing lights, which can clearly be seen in the proposed images in the project proposal. Please install shielding fixtures and do not add more upward facing lights.

Name: Catherine Dill

Date: March 3, 2026 10:25:15 pm

Hello. I live in Ward 6, and I am a mediocre birder. I love birds, for their role in our ecosystem and for the sheer enjoyment that they can offer. Ensuring the survival and flourishing of all of DC's full-time resident and migratory birds is a crucial task in planning and modernizing this city. Please prevent upward facing light in this project. Thank you for consideration.

Name: Jessica Davis

Date: March 3, 2026 10:27:07 pm

Please prevent upward facing light at Union Station. It will cause more bird collisions and fatalities. Plus, I like the original lighting.

Name: Jordan Strickler

Date: March 3, 2026 10:49:30 pm

To the Union Station Redevelopment Team,

I respectfully urge that the proposed lighting project at Union Station prioritize environmental stewardship by incorporating fully shielded, full-cutoff fixtures and eliminating unnecessary uplight.

Washington, DC sits along the Atlantic Flyway, and excessive upward-facing lighting can disorient migrating birds, increase collision risks, and contribute to skyglow. Installing shielded fixtures that emit no light above the horizontal plane — and selecting warm color temperatures (3000K or lower) — would significantly reduce ecological impacts while maintaining safety and aesthetics.

As a major civic landmark, Union Station has the opportunity to model responsible, biodiversity-conscious urban design. I strongly encourage the project team to integrate dark-sky principles into the final lighting plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Kaitlyn Sheppard

Date: March 3, 2026 11:40:27 pm

Hello! I am writing as a DC resident, frequent traveler through union station, and person who values protecting our city's wildlife. As you discuss plans to install new lighting to the outside of union station i urge you to consider the impact on migratory birds like American woodcocks that have a disturbingly high collision rate in the area surrounding Union Station. Every season millions of birds pass through and unfortunately along with that window strikes increase tenfold. I

would like to ask that you consider installing shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light to minimize bird deaths from the project.

Name: Stephanie Haley

Date: March 4, 2026 3:24:04 am

I am a nearly twenty-year resident of Washington. I've been a volunteer with City Wildlife and the Lights Out DC program for nearly ten. Washington, DC is on the flight path of many migratory birds. Each fall and spring many of those traveling become disoriented by light pollution of the city and collide with buildings. Volunteering for the last few years, I've held the small, deceased and injured bodies of juncos, warblers, and hummingbirds among others.

Millions of birds cross our skies each year in migration. Light pollution increases the likelihood of crashes and bird deaths.

NCPC has the unique opportunity to make the city safer for birds flying over Union Station. By requiring lighting upgrades and changes to face downward, countless birds are helped and we, the people, continue to enjoy Union Station. It's a choice that makes a real positive difference in the safety of migratory birds without taking any aesthetic appeal from Union Station.

Name: Lois Wye

Date: March 4, 2026 5:52:37 am

Please do not add night lighting at Union Station. It is already a high risk building for bird collisions and more lighting will result in more bird deaths. Let's protect our birds. Thank you.

Name: Andrew Marble

Date: March 4, 2026 6:44:03 am

Hello:

Could you please install shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light? It will help protect the birds. Thank you!

Name: Emma Shaw

Date: March 4, 2026 7:46:11 am

Please install shielding fixtures for the lights so birds will be safe!

Name: Ashley Nunes

Date: March 4, 2026 8:10:33 am

I object to the proposed lighting updates. Not only do I like the existing lighting and how it accentuates Union Station's architecture, but increased lighting is likely to increase bird navigation confusion and collision mortality. The U.S. has faced devastating bird population loss in recent decades, and no building could conceivably claim to be meaningfully updated if it ignores this reality. As a DC resident and proud constituent of our country's capital, I urge decisionmakers to reject this costly plan and choose instead the path of being an example for sensible spending and bird-safe construction.

Name: Alexandra Francis

Date: March 4, 2026 8:14:38 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Commission require shielding fixtures and prohibit upward-facing lighting as part of the proposed lighting changes at Union Station.

Union Station is already a documented site of significant bird strike fatalities. Increasing upward-facing and unshielded lighting will exacerbate this problem. Artificial light at night disorients migratory birds, particularly during peak migration seasons, drawing them into illuminated facades where collisions frequently occur. Washington, DC sits along a major migratory flyway, making lighting design choices especially consequential.

Installing fully shielded fixtures and avoiding upward-directed light are well-established best practices in bird-safe design. These measures reduce skyglow, prevent disorientation, and significantly decrease collision risks—while still allowing the building to be beautifully and effectively illuminated. Many cities and landmark properties across the country have adopted similar approaches to balance architectural visibility with environmental stewardship.

Beyond ecological harm, bird strike fatalities at a prominent civic landmark are distressing for visitors and families. Union Station is not only a transportation hub but a historic and symbolic gateway to the nation's capital. Its design should reflect leadership in sustainability and responsible urban planning. As a resident of Ward 6, it also keeps our neighborhood safe and beautiful by reducing exposure to bird fatalities.

By requiring shielded fixtures and eliminating upward-facing light, the Commission can:

- Protect migratory bird populations
- Reduce unnecessary light pollution
- Preserve the architectural integrity of Union Station
- Demonstrate federal leadership in sustainable design

I respectfully urge the Commission to condition approval of this project on the inclusion of bird-safe lighting standards.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to thoughtful planning in the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Francis
Ward 6, Capitol Hill

Name: Matthew Dozier

Date: March 4, 2026 8:20:26 am

Hello, I am writing to express my deep concern over proposed lighting changes at Union Station that would lead to a drastic increase in light pollution that could adversely impact bird populations in the area. Migrating birds can become disoriented and even die as a result of nighttime light pollution. As a DC resident, I strongly urge you to take all possible precautions to minimize light pollution in the new design, including installing shield fixtures and avoiding upward facing light sources. Thank you.

Name: Julia Myers

Date: March 4, 2026 8:35:54 am

Please consider installing shielding fixtures to prevent any unnecessary upward facing light. This reduces light pollution and is safer for migrating birds. Thank you.

Name: Alexandra Parisien

Date: March 4, 2026 8:35:58 am

The area surrounding Union Station has one of the highest bird collision rates in DC. I regularly find deceased birds on the sidewalk at or near Union Station, a problem exacerbated by artificial lights at night disorienting birds flying through the area. To prevent worsening this problem, it is important to install shielding fixtures and forego any unnecessary upward facing lights as part of this project.

Name: Nora Elbeheiry

Date: March 4, 2026 8:42:21 am

Hi, please install shielding fixtures for this project to prevent any necessary upward facing light. This will assist with the growing problem of light pollution that affects migratory birds and causes glass collisions.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Sara Dollen

Date: March 4, 2026 9:03:16 am

I am a Wildlife Rehabilitator at City Wildlife in DC. Approximately 20% of our nearly 2,000 annual wildlife patients are birds that have struck windows. Less than half of window strike victims who survive long enough to be rescued actually survive to release due to catastrophic injuries. Union Station has long been a collision hotspot for migratory birds, as recorded by our Lights Out DC program. Upgrades that would significantly increase outdoor lighting at night, especially upwards facing light, would make this area even deadlier for migratory birds. Over 80% of North America's birds migrate at night. Light pollution distracts and disorients them, luring them towards hazards such as windows. With about 1 in 4 wild breeding birds gone in the US since 1970, we cannot afford more preventable losses. Please help keep our skies full of song for generations to come by avoiding upwards facing light and reducing light pollution as much as possible. Even turning unnecessary lights off from sunset to sunrise during migration helps. To learn more about window strikes in DC visit lightsoutdc.info and citywildlife.org/lightsoutdc

Name: Frances Galindo

Date: March 4, 2026 9:05:26 am

I am an active volunteer with Lights Out DC and help with monitoring for migratory bird collisions into windowglass each Spring and Fall. The Union Station area by far sees the highest number of bird collisions each season. For the planned lighting upgrades, the installation of shields to prevent upward facing light, would help to mitigate light pollution that attracts and confuses migratory birds that leads to collisions.

I strongly urge the commission to insist on lighting that does not contribute to more bird collision and death.

Sincerely,

Frances Galindo

Ward 6 resident

Name: Kerry Skiff

Date: March 4, 2026 9:39:14 am

Please prevent upward facing lights in the renovation of Union Station. Union Station is the site of some of the most building collisions with birds every year. In the shadow of the worst extinction event in modern history, it is critical that we do what we can to prevent bird deaths in whatever way we can.

Name: Sophia Mietus
Date: March 4, 2026 9:39:22 am

Increasing lighting will attract more migratory birds at night, which leads to mass fatalities of birds due to window collisions and entrapment. Do you see to find hundreds of dead birds on your way to work? I don't think so.

Name: Andrew Reilly
Date: March 4, 2026 9:48:34 am

dont add more lights! its unnecessary & will kill more migratory birds than union station already does

Name: Emily Ronis
Date: March 4, 2026 10:24:14 am

Please carefully consider how the proposed lighting changes will impact both the resident and migrating bird populations who shared DC with us. Uplighting and reflective windows confuse birds, who can fly into those structures or have their migration patterns disrupted. LightsOut DC, whose volunteers record bird collisions with buildings and windows in DC, have found collisions at and around Union Station already. Please reconsider using uplighting, or at least consult with experts about effective mitigation measures to reduce the chance for collisions (e.g. shielding). As a DC resident, I would hate for one of our most iconic buildings to become a death trap for our native and visiting birds. Thank you for considering.

Name: James Haber
Date: March 4, 2026 10:37:41 am

Light pollution is extremely dangerous for the thousands of birds that migrate above and through DC. Any future lighting projects must work to prevent any unnecessary upward facing light by install shielding fixtures and directing light toward the ground. This will reduce excess light, reduce energy use, and protect local wildlife while still providing enough illumination for pedestrians and drivers around Union Station. Please consider the effects on local wildlife in this decision.

Name: Nika Barbakadze
Date: March 4, 2026 10:38:13 am

Please reconsider installing any unnecessary upward facing lights or shielding any upward facing lights to prevent light pollution that may attract migratory birds and cause fatalities. The immediate area around Union Station is already one of the highest building collision rates in DC.

Name: Sheri Strohl
Date: March 4, 2026 10:39:43 am

Please protect birds. Please consider using shielding fixtures to avoid upward lighting.

Name: Allie Judge
Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:02 am

Hello, I am a local that lives only a few miles from Union Station, as well as an avid bird lover! It's important that we do our part to protect migratory birds from human infrastructure to the extent we are able to, as they are critical to preserving the beauty and biodiversity of our natural ecosystems. Please do not include upward facing lights in the design of the Union Station's new lighting plan. This is disorienting for the millions of birds migrating every year through DC and leads to building collisions. Please install shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward lights to help protect our vulnerable bird species! It's also a terrible look for tourism and visitors to have dead birds on our side walks and next to one of the most heavily trafficked areas of DC.

Name: Sara Barrack

Date: March 4, 2026 10:47:13 am

Good Morning,

I'm submitting a written comment to urge you not to put in any unnecessary upward facing lighting when making upgrades to Union Station. Union Station and it's surrounding area is one of the highest areas for bird collisions in DC. Uplighting will only make this light pollution worse and lead to more fatalities. By using shielding fixtures, the lighting can be upgraded without harming the bird populations.

I have personally brought birds to wildlife rehabbers after finding them on the street, stepped over and ignored while they are in pain. So I am familiar with the cost of insufficiently planned city infrastructure on bird populations. While of course lighting is necessary, we need to create infrastructure that allows us to be good stewards of the city in all ways and mitigate a variety of harms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara

Name: Mike Strohl

Date: March 4, 2026 10:48:02 am

Please avoid unnecessary upward facing light and shield fixtures in order to protect the birds in that area.

Name: Evan Kinnevan

Date: March 4, 2026 10:51:39 am

Dear Representative of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing in regards to the Washington Union Station Lighting Upgrades.

Although I am happy that Union Station is receiving lighting upgrades, I am worried about the ecological impact these upgrades will have on migratory birds. Since 1970, the U.S. has seen a decline of over 2.5 Billion migratory birds, or 28% of their populations. One of the primary drivers for their decline are threats during their semi annual migration. Since most of these birds migrate at night, light pollution disorients them and results in their collision with windows.

It why, as an ornithologist and a concerned citizen, I am asking for you to take the small step to install shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light. These fixtures reduce light pollution to levels that protect migratory birds, and reduce the number of dead birds found by travelers around Union Station.

Thank you,
Evan Kinnevan

Name: Blythe Alexander

Date: March 4, 2026 11:09:42 am

I am concerned about the proposal for lighting upgrades around Union Station. Please make sure that the lights are not going to be too bright and please make sure to direct and contain the lights to face down. Do not contribute to the ever growing problem of light pollution that is known to negatively impact people and wildlife.

The area surrounding Union station is one of the highest areas for bird collisions every year and increased light pollution attracts more birds and increases bird death rates. We are losing our bird population at an alarming rate. Let's not contribute to this just to light up a building irresponsibly.

I encourage you to review the material on this website <https://darksky.org/> to find out how man-made light pollution disrupts wildlife, impacts human well-being, wastes money and energy, contributes to climate change, and blocks our view of the universe. As well as recommendations for outside lighting to minimize light pollution, such as using warmer-color lights, the lowest level required and think about how light bounces off surfaces and reflects into the sky, target the light and use shields to avoid beams that spill beyond the target.

and please don't light up the building everywhere just to light up the building like some weirdo display -- please make sure there's a clear purpose and how it will impact the area, neighbors, wildlife. Following these guidelines could end up saving money too.

Thank you for your time in considering this.

Name: Kathleen Gough

Date: March 4, 2026 11:18:59 am

I am a long time volunteer at City Wildlife and have had the opportunity to see the harm that comes to both our local and our migratory birds in DC. Some of this harm is preventable with bird friendly lighting. This can still provide the safety aspects for people using Union Station while also making the area safer for local and visiting birds. This area is already a known hazard to birds, and you now have the opportunity not to make it worse. Please consider implementing appropriate safety upgrades with our bird population in mind.

Thank you,
Kathleen Gough

Name: Emma Bishop

Date: March 4, 2026 11:20:19 am

A significant increase in lighting outside Union Station is not only unnecessary, but harmful to our community. It not only detracts from the beauty of the interior of the station, but it will be a significant source of light pollution. This does nothing to increase the safety of people, and it will increase fatality rates for migratory birds. The area around Union Station is already one of the highest areas for bird collisions with glass/buildings in the district. Bright lights at night disrupt their vision while migrating at night, and will lead to more dead birds. Not only is this something we should be opposed to from a humanitarian and environmentalist perspective, but it also means that travelers coming to and from DC will likely see dead birds around Union. This does not reflect well on our city, and is a horrendous use of public funds.

Name: Emily Tiemeyer

Date: March 4, 2026 11:20:53 am

Hello,

I am a wildlife rehabilitator with the D.C. organization City Wildlife. I am very concerned by the recent proposal to add extensive new outdoor lighting to Union Station. Birds rely on natural light for migration, and outdoor lights have been shown to nationally cause mortality in the scale of billions of individuals. Lights Out D.C., a organization that partners with City Wildlife, has been doing good work to inform people of the benefit to migratory birds by minimizing lights kept

on at night. Adding additional light to an already well-lit area would only add to the existing light pollution problem, but adding the planned upward facing light to the facade of the building would be detrimental.

I have attached here a map of location data from the Union Station area of window-strike birds that City Wildlife collected in 2025. This map reveals that the Union Station and surrounding area is already a hot spot in the city for window-strike migratory birds. Each red point is a location that an injured or already dead bird was found. Of the almost 30 birds that were picked up around Union Station and the surrounding few blocks in 2025, several were species listed on D.C.'s Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. I urge the committee to reconsider this plan which would put additional and unnecessary burden on the wildlife that uses DC.

Sincerely,
Emily Tiemeyer

[Attachment](#)

Name: Mahdia Hashimy
Date: March 4, 2026 11:46:07 am

Hello, I am very concerned by the recent proposal to add extensive new outdoor lighting to Union Station. Birds rely on natural light for migration, and outdoor lights have been shown to nationally cause mortality in the scale of billions of individuals. Lights Out DC has been doing good work to inform people of the benefit to migratory birds by minimizing lights kept on at night. I urge the committee to reconsider this plan which would an undue burden on the wildlife that uses DC. Sincerely,
Mahdia

Name: Kathryn Pauli
Date: March 4, 2026 12:02:52 pm

While the proposed new lighting does enhance the visibility and majesty of Union Station at night, it also has potential negative implications for wildlife. In particular, increased sky glow is likely to cause higher rates of bird collisions in an area that already has one of the highest building collision rates in Washington, D.C.

I request that the plan include measures to install shielding fixtures and prevent any unnecessary upward facing light to mitigate the impact on our avian populations.
