

STATEMENT 1

Wendy Haan - Co-founder MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds

Hello my name is Wendy Haan. I am a co-founder of the MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds and a MN taxpayer.

This past Wednesday at a meeting with Chair Kelm-Helgen, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Mondale and our citizens group, we were shocked at the Chair's lack of knowledge about the impact of the Vikings Stadium on migratory birds.

The chair denied that the stadium lies within the Mississippi Flyway and denied that the park surrounding the stadium will affect bird collisions. She asserts that there is no proof birds will die from her highly transparent and reflective glass choice. These statements are contrary to research and standards adopted by the American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon, LEED certification program and the MN Sustainable Building Guidelines.

Is this board questioning the expertise of National Bird conservation groups? Have they read one scientific report about the dangers the reflective glass poses to our already declining bird populations? Isn't it their job to be informed when this irresponsible choice of glass has led to so much public outcry?

We find it interesting that the Chair continues to assert that Audubon and other bird advocates were "too late" to suggest design changes because the stadium design was already approved. And yet, here we are again with another announcement of a design change by the Vikings. We are confused that the Vikings can make design changes but the citizens can't. We thought this was our stadium, too!

The MSFA and the Vikings leveraging their power to make choices which insult the values of the people who are paying for it, is an outstanding example of a corrupt system in which the desires of just a few individuals can override the desires and values of many thousands more.

Furthermore, if it really was *too late*, why did you engage with Audubon for 18 months, allowing them to go to the trouble of researching all of the potential glass options? And why, at that time, did you tell them that the only restriction was cost – a statement you later revoked as you shelled out over a million dollars for a beverage elevator and 1,200 more televisions. Why is the purchase of 2,000 televisions, in a stadium where people are supposed to be watching live football, an acceptable expenditure but protecting the lives of thousands of birds is not? WHO'S GOING TO BE LOOKING OUT THE WINDOWS ANYWAY?

Minnesotans want to be proud of their new stadium. To expect the MN taxpayers to fund a monumental glass wall that will further impact already declining songbirds, when there is an affordable, aesthetic alternative---- is simply not acceptable!

First it was a budget issue.

Last month you said it was "aesthetics"

Now you say the experts are wrong and there is no evidence birds will die.

STATEMENT 2

Kate Hunt - Director of Outreach, MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds -

“Fritted Glass is a Win-Win Solution: Glass properties meet MSFA design requirement and protect birds”

My name is Kate Hunt. I live in St. Paul. I am a member of the MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

For this major decision and investment, and considering two years of input from conservation and environmental groups, did MSFA and its architects perform due diligence to investigate alternative types of glass used on similar structures prior to ordering their glass?

Because in the Chair’s own words, only highly transparent glass will allow fans to see in and out of the building and that bird safe glass is too much a compromise of aesthetics!

Since design is the issue, airy and transparent bird safe glass exists and will achieve the stated design goal. You only have to look to the Javits Convention Center in New York for the evidence.

We’d like the public to see the alternative we are proposing; a perfect example that design does not have to be compromised using energy efficient, bird-safe glass.

STATEMENT 3

Howard Miller – Director of Communications, MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds

“What Due Diligence SHOULD tell us; the Jacob Javits Center”

Good morning. My name is Howard Miller and I’m also a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds. I’d like to thank the directors of MSFA for hearing our position this morning.

When spending over a billion dollars of Minnesotan’s money, due diligence is vital. This must include studying comparable structures for any number of reasons such as cost and environmental impact. The Jacob Javits Convention center on the west side of Manhattan is certainly comparable to the Viking stadium project:

- Mid rise building,
- sheathed in glass,
- adjacent to a major river **and**
- a major migratory path for birds.

The Javits Center achieved LEED-Silver Certification by replacing 8000 panes of highly reflective, low-e glass with high performing, more transparent bird-safe fritted glass! Which Ms. Hunt has just described to you.

On your handout there are several pictures of both the interior and exterior of the Javits Center. Please note the clear, open feeling the fritted glass provides! Note also the lack of 'murkiness' or obstructed vision in direct contradiction to the claims of opponents of fritted glass.

Best of all fritted glass - as used in the Javits Center – has reduced the number of fatal bird collisions by 95%!! These results are due both to the use of frits and the lowered reflectivity of the glass. Project Safe Flight monitored bird fatalities both before and after the bird-safe glass was installed. In addition to the drastic reduction in bird deaths and greatly enhanced aesthetics, energy consumption in the Javits Center was reduced by 29%!

Bottom line: Using fritted glass the new Vikings stadium would experience:

- Decreased reflectivity
- Greatly increased energy savings
- Open, transparent space that welcomes Minnesotans
- **But does not draw birds to their death!**
- Win-Win-Win!

Documentation of all I've said is available at websites identified on the handouts.
Thank You.

STATEMENT 4

Wayne Swanson - Co-founder MN Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds "Call for Gov. Dayton to remove Kelm-Helgen as chairwoman"

Respectfully, whatever you have accomplished with this Authority, whatever good work you have ushered in during your leadership, on the issue of Bird Safe Design, you are **way behind** the curve and out of step with the citizens of MN.

Bird Safe Design is **not** the architecture of **tomorrow!** Bird Safe Design is the architecture of **now!** The technology has been around for years. There is a wide menu of suitable bird safe glass options that can be applied to the current glass choice. The whys and the wherefores of bird collisions are known, and what to do about it is not only tried and tested but codified into municipal building standards around the continent; Chicago, Toronto, Oakland, San Francisco all have Bird Safe Design standards. And don't let me forget to mention that our State of Minnesota has bird safe building guidelines put into effect a year and a half ago. Our "new" stadium could not be built by today's standard. Our "new" stadium is already **old**.

This Authority is a public entity funded by public dollars, mandated to protect the public interest, charged to provide for the public good, and given the sacred trust to express the will of the citizens of Minnesota.

And the will of the people, like the bird safe glass we propose, is transparent and clear; the will of the people is clear in the 100,000 petitioners that want to Change The Glass Now; the will of the people is clear in the unanimous resolutions by both Minneapolis and St Paul City Councils to Change The Glass Now; the will of the people is clear in the MN Sustainable Building Guidelines, and in the urging by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to Change The Glass Now.

In the last 30 months, more than 100 news sources have covered this issue, ranging from our local newsprint, radio and TV stations, to national media like the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal and outward internationally to The Guardian in London. In this storm of

public interest and public concern, we are shocked that this Authority has not sponsored public discussion about bird safe glass and has not been open to explore a bird friendly glass alternative.

We agree with former Gov. Arne Carlson who wrote in a recent Star Tribune article “that the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority be reconstituted with the immediate appointment of new leadership that possesses the background, stature and community commitment that this project sorely needs.”

We need new leadership if the stadium is to open on time. Bird- safe glass does not have to delay the opening as Chair Kelm-Helgen states because it’s not new glass or a different design, but a treatment applied to the glass they have already ordered. MSFA states they have no idea where the glass is in production or if a single pane has been made. Chair Kelm-Helgen refuses to call Viracon (glass manufacturer) to investigate the possibilities. This underscores her dismissive attitude about public concern and environmental protection.”

Whereas we declare a state of no confidence, and we call on Gov. Mark Dayton to remove MSFA Chair Michele Kelm-Helgen for failure to carry out the MSFA’s statutory mandate to represent the interests of Minnesota citizens. We will be hand delivering a letter to Governor Dayton at the close of this meeting asking him to remove Chair Kelm-Helgen.