

I am writing to raise urgent concerns regarding the proposed development at **Glenmore Landing**, LOC2023-0130, particularly the design elements involving large glass facades. While I understand the importance of urban development, I am deeply troubled by the potential harm this project poses to migratory bird populations, many of which rely on this area as a critical stopover on their migratory routes.

As you are aware, the City of Calgary is home to numerous species of migratory birds, many of which travel thousands of miles between breeding and wintering grounds. The area surrounding Glenmore Landing is a key habitat for these birds, offering food, shelter, and a safe resting place during their long journeys. However, the introduction of large, reflective glass surfaces on the proposed building is likely to create deadly hazards for these vulnerable species.

I am particularly concerned about the following:

1. **Glass Facades and Bird Collisions:** Glass windows, especially those that are reflective or transparent, are known to cause significant bird collisions. Birds, particularly migratory species, often fly into glass windows because they do not perceive the hazard, mistaking reflections of sky or trees for actual open space. As a result, millions of birds die each year due to collisions with buildings, and Glenmore Landing, with its large glass surfaces, could contribute to this devastating issue.
2. **Migratory Routes and Habitat:** The location of Glenmore Landing, being in close proximity to important wetlands and green spaces, is situated along migratory routes used by many bird species, including those listed as threatened or endangered. The disturbance and risk posed by the glass structure could disorient or even kill large numbers of birds, particularly during peak migratory seasons in the spring and fall.
3. **Loss of Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity:** The potential impact on local bird populations would not only harm individual species but could also disrupt the broader ecosystem. Birds play a vital role in pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal, all of which contribute to a healthy and balanced ecosystem. The loss of these species could have cascading effects on local biodiversity.
4. **Climate and Conservation Goals:** As our city works to meet climate and conservation objectives, it is important to consider how urban development impacts local wildlife and ecosystems. By failing to mitigate the risks posed by building design, we are potentially undermining efforts to protect the environment and preserve wildlife.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge the City to reconsider the current proposal of the Glenmore Landing development. Specifically, I ask that the following measures be implemented:

- **Bird-friendly Design Features:** Incorporate bird-safe design elements, such as fritted glass, UV-reflective coatings, or other strategies proven to prevent bird collisions. These design solutions are not only effective but also do not compromise the aesthetic or functionality of the building.

- **Building Height Restrictions:** The current building restrictions for the plaza at 33 feet or to ensure the protection of Glenmore Reservoir. Building heights need to remain extremely low in order to protect the habitat so many wildlife call home.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Conduct a thorough environmental impact assessment, specifically focusing on migratory bird populations and the potential effects of the development on local wildlife. The findings of this assessment should guide any decisions regarding the project's design and location.
- **Habitat Protection and Enhancement:** Where possible, the City should be ensuring that the development respects and enhances the natural habitat of migratory birds, providing safe passage and minimizing disruption to their migratory routes.

I believe that with careful planning and design, it is possible to balance urban development with the protection of our natural environment. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and explore ways in which the City can move forward with a development that prioritizes both growth and conservation.