

For September 9, 2014

Dear Supervisors,

This letter is in support of the Planning Commission's recommendations for additional revisions to the County's Outdoor Lighting Code. The Conservation Committee of the Cascabel Conservation Association appreciates and supports the efforts made by the Commission and the Huachuca Astronomy Club toward preserving our dark night skies.

In addition to the issues brought forward by Bob Gent and the Huachuca Astronomy Club, you may not be aware of the effect of artificial light on birds, particularly migrating birds. While research on the effects on mammals is meager, the effects on birds are well documented. Many species of birds, especially small insect-eaters, migrate at night. They use the moon and stars for navigation, and when they fly through a brightly lit area, they become disoriented, making them susceptible to collisions with night-lit towers and buildings. Millions of birds die each year in the U.S. because of this disorientation. This issue is especially important for the San Pedro Valley, one of the most important flyways in the western United States. Some four million birds use the valley each year to migrate between the tropics and North America.

Because Cochise County hosts such major bird migrations, anything we can do to lessen the peril of their journey is important. Aside from the obvious economic benefits via Wings Over Willcox and other birding events, birds provide huge ecological value as seed dispersers, insect controllers, environmental indicators, scavengers, pollinators, and small mammal predators. These hidden economic benefits of birds' ecological functions are often not fully appreciated.

Please return their favor by approving the recommendations for the additional revisions before you.

From: Anna Lands [<mailto:healing@rnsmtc.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 7:34 AM

To: Searle, Richard; Motter, Gussie

Cc: nmeader@cox.net; Anna Lands

Subject: lighting code 9/9/14

Richard, Gussie, Please bring this to the Supervisors' meeting this morning.. Thanks very much.

For information on the Cascabel Conservation Association, visit www.cascabelconservation.org.

Anna