

Rep. Phyllis Kahn

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Minnesota House of Representatives

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July 24, 2014

To the editor:

As the author of a state law requiring state-owned and leased buildings to turn off their lights between midnight and dawn during the two bird migration seasons of the year, I was pleased when the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority pledged last year to adopt those same guidelines at the new Vikings stadium to protect birds from fatally flying into what will be the largest windows in the state.

Unfortunately, MSFA rejected a request from the Minnesota Audubon Society to use special glass easily visible to birds to further reduce collisions, citing budgetary constraints.

Minnesotans are well known as good stewards of our land, air and water – as well as the creatures that inhabit them. As the Chair of the House Legacy Committee, I can certainly attest to that. Minnesotans are also problem solvers, so before any more feathers on both sides get ruffled, I urge all stakeholders to participate in a respectful, thoughtful conversation about how to pay for the modest \$1.1 million estimated cost to protect our state's wildlife by installing bird-safe glass at the new stadium.

This is a challenge we can and should solve. Our long-standing reputation as good environmental stewards depends on it.

Sincerely,

State Representative Phyllis Kahn (DFL – Minneapolis)

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