



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUPPORTS HB557

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) is a 5,000-member independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Its mission is to engage all Northern Virginia communities in enjoying, conserving, and restoring nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people.

ASNV supports HB557 and urges the subcommittee to recommend that it be reported out. All too often, transportation infrastructure projects pay inadequate attention to the impact their projects have on our environment. The impacts are especially severe when the projects affect natural spaces such as public parks, recreation areas and wildlife protection areas such as wildlife refuges.

Our environment is increasingly threatened by development projects. Destruction of trees, erosion, increases in stormwater runoff, and the inadvertent introduction or proliferation of invasive plant species are only a few of the problems that can result. Once the environmental damage is done it can take decades to repair it – if the damage can in fact be repaired.

HB557 will help to ameliorate the damage done by transportation development projects. It is a small but vital step toward preserving our increasingly fragile and threatened natural spaces.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tom Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tom Blackburn
Advocacy Chair
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