

WT 03-187

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Acting Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Room: 8-B115  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & inspected

APR 28 2009  
FCC Mail Room 4/17/09

Dear Acting Commissioner Copps:

As <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ of the millions of Americans who cherish our nation's native wild birds, <sup>we</sup> ~~I~~ urge the FCC to take action to prevent the needless killing of millions of migratory birds at communications towers. These bird deaths can be prevented without affecting the development and operation of telecommunication services and without compromising on aviation safety.

Scientists have shown that -- especially during bad weather conditions -- migrating birds become disoriented and trapped by the halo of light surrounding towers using steady-burning illumination, circling endlessly until they either collide with the structure, collide with each other, or fall dead from exhaustion.

Given the overwhelming scientific evidence that communications towers kill birds, and the existence of science-based guidelines from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on siting and operation of these towers, it is appalling that the FCC is failing to conduct any meaningful environmental review of tower applications, and continues in its refusal to adopt any meaningful regulatory changes or mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the killing of America's birds.

The FCC should act now to take meaningful actions to significantly reduce the millions of bird deaths caused by communications towers. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*William G. Coleman*  
*Barbara K. Coleman*

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