

# No, Wind & Solar Do NOT Have Significant Impact on Bird & Bat Populations

Neither wind turbines nor solar projects have been found to cause population level effects on any species of bird, and their impacts on bird populations are minimal. Wind and solar developers routinely follow a regimented, science-based protocol to evaluate sites for risks to species and their habitats and to mitigate any potential impacts, which includes coordinating with the appropriate subject matter experts at state and federal wildlife agencies.

**Senate Bill 819** (Kolkhorst) is chock-full of overburdensome and costly regulations in the name of environmental stewardship and species preservation, yet it **singles out renewable energy generation that has less of an impact on bird populations than other energy resources, produces emission-free power and already adheres to rigorous environmental standards.**

“Texans will pay about \$115 billion more in wholesale ERCOT market costs over the next 15 years if the Texas Legislature passes laws that slow or stop renewable energy and storage development.”

-Texas Energy Buyers Alliance study, Feb. 2025

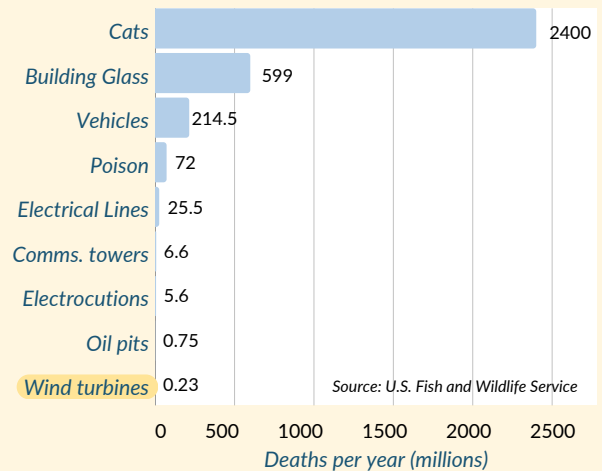


## WIND ENERGY

Impact on Bird & Bat Populations

- **Songbirds** make up nearly 90% of all landbirds and **current turbine-related fatalities constitute a very small percentage of their total population size**—typically **<0.02%**—even for those species with the most frequently reported fatalities.
- The **red-tailed hawk** and **American kestrel**, the most commonly reported raptor fatalities, are also the two most abundant diurnal raptor species in the U.S., indicating **no outsized risk**.
- According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **wind turbine collisions do not have population level impacts on eagles** and are a very small percentage of their fatalities compared to other causes such as starvation, disease, or collisions with vehicles. **The golden eagle population has remained stable and the bald eagle population has boomed, all while wind turbine buildout has occurred.**
- Significant population declines in threatened and endangered bat species in the U.S. are the result of a disease known as white-nose syndrome. **Multiple studies demonstrate a low level of impact from wind power on protected bat species.**

### Leading anthropogenic causes of bird mortality in the U.S.



## SOLAR ENERGY

Impact on Bird Populations



“The State of Texas has an established regulatory framework to manage the environmental impacts of solar, wind, and energy storage systems on the environment.”

-TCEQ's Lifecycle Assessment of Wind, Solar, Battery Storage, Oct. 2024

- Early research on bird deaths often involved CSP facilities, **none of which are located in Texas today** and a technology that has largely been abandoned by industry. **Argonne National Laboratory has not detected a single collision after collecting nearly two years of bird-solar interactions using advanced camera technology.**
- **Habitats remain accessible to birds throughout operation** as vegetation is restored following construction. **Studies have found that these restored habitats can actually lead to an increase in the diversity and abundance of birds and other species**, and birds utilize the facilities for foraging, perching, and other activities.
- According to the **U.S. Department of the Interior**, **there is no data to support the “lake effect” theory**—birds mistaking solar panels for water—and **evidence is thus far mixed.**

Scan the QR Code or visit [www.poweralliance.org/texas](http://www.poweralliance.org/texas) for citations and more on SB 819.

