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May 18, 2009

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our one million members and supporters throughout the United States, **the National Audubon Society strongly urges you to support the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454)**. We also urge you to oppose any efforts to weaken the bill and encourage you to support efforts to strengthen and improve the bill as the legislative process moves forward.

The American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act is an historic, ground-breaking energy plan that will repower America with clean energy, cut our dangerous dependence on oil, and reduce global warming pollution. The central component of the ACES Act is a program that will reduce global warming pollution by 83 percent below current levels by 2050. In addition, the bill includes several forward-thinking policies that will drive investments in clean and renewable energy, ensure that we are using energy more efficiently, and reduce our dependence on dirty fossil fuels like oil and coal – all policies that help reduce global warming pollution. The bill also includes critically important provisions that will provide funding to protect our natural resources and help birds and wildlife adapt to a changing climate.

A recent Audubon report, “Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion,” underscores the need for action to address global warming. Our analysis of four decades of scientific data reveals that the birds of North America are moving dramatically northward. Data on increasing temperatures over these 40 years points to global warming as the likely culprit for the shifts birds have been making to cooler latitudes. Whether seen in the movement of birds or the melting of ice caps, it is clear that our climate is changing as a result of global warming. Failure to prevent the worst impacts of global warming not only threatens birds, wildlife, and ecosystems, but the American people and communities that rely upon a healthy, fully functioning natural environment.


By addressing the issues of climate change and energy independence, we can protect our communities and the environment, revitalize our faltering economy, create millions of new jobs, and build the clean energy economy of the future. The ACES Act is a major step toward achieving such a vision. As this critically important legislation moves through Congress, we urge you to support efforts to improve the bill as follows: strengthen the near-term emissions reduction targets; strengthen the renewable electricity standard targets and ensure that the standard only includes truly renewable sources of energy; increase the targets for energy

efficiency savings; increase the funding provided for investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and research and development; increase the funding provided to help birds, wildlife, and ecosystems adapt to climate change; and, impose stricter limits on free allowances and financial assistance to polluters.

We look forward to working with you to adopt a bold clean energy plan that will protect our environment, move us toward a clean energy future, and bolster our economy. We urge you to support the American Clean Energy Act of 2009, and to support efforts to strengthen this critically important bill as it moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Loyless".

Betsy Loyless

Senior Vice President for Public Policy