



March 19, 2018

Re: Testimony in Support of **S.B. 7, An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency**

Dear Chairmen Kennedy, Miner, Demicco, Ranking Member Harding, and Members of the Environment Committee:

It is time for bold climate action. The sooner Connecticut tackles carbon pollution, the sooner we will start reaping the health, safety, environmental, and economic benefits that follow. We must recommit Connecticut to proactive planning and concrete actions towards a healthier climate. Audubon Connecticut supports S.B. 7.

Audubon Connecticut, the state office of the National Audubon Society, is one of Connecticut's premier conservation and environmental education organizations. With four Chapters, nearly 17,000 members, supporters, and partners across the state, through land stewardship, science, education, and advocacy, we work to preserve habitat and protect bird species that are of state, national and global concern. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Earlier this year, the Governor's Council on Climate Change recommended an ambitious emissions reduction target for the year 2030. S. B. 7 would establish that new target as a legal mandate, laying the groundwork for building Connecticut's clean energy future. Other provisions in the bill would strengthen the state's planning for coastal resilience and require the state's energy strategy to align with our climate goals.

We hope the Committee will support the bill and prepare our state for sea level rise and a changing climate.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you.

Genese Leach, Policy Manager