



## **2018 State and Federal Policy Priorities**

**Audubon Connecticut 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. Our approach to this work involves us in a wide array of environmental, wildlife conservation, and human health concerns.**

### State Legislative and Policy Priorities

#### **1. Ensure Conservation Investments within State Programs**

- Oppose disproportionate cuts from state programs that support land acquisition, bird and wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water, and healthy forests
- Oppose the elimination of the Council of Environmental Quality, the state's environmental watchdog
- Protect the Community Investment Act, which generates funding for state programs for open space, farmland/dairy production, historic preservation, and affordable housing
- Pursue enabling legislation for municipal land conservation and stewardship funding
- Support a constitutional amendment to better protect public lands from being conveyed
- Safeguard revenue generated through the Passport to Parks program and ensure it is used for its intended purpose within DEEP

#### **2. Address Climate Change and support CT's Clean Energy efforts**

- Join in policy opportunities to protect and strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to decrease emissions in CT and the Northeast
- Actively engage in the Connecticut Institute for Resiliency and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to influence climate resiliency project funding in CT
- Oppose the raiding of ratepayer clean energy funds raised through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative intended for the Connecticut Green Bank and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund
- Support legislation that lifts the current \$10 million cap of virtual net, with the intended purpose of increasing access to governmental, state, municipal, and agricultural customer users
- Support the incorporation of a bid advantage for Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit qualifying projects developed within a microgrid
- Support the expansion of offshore wind energy that includes reasonable precautions to protect bird migration patterns

#### **3. Support Bird Friendly Communities and the advancement of the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program**

- Monitor and support state initiatives that reduce hazardous pesticide use and encourage native planting
- Collaborate with DEEP to publicly recognize IBAs on state lands

### Federal Legislative and Policy Priorities

#### **1. Long Island Sound and Additional Habitat Protection**

- Advocate for the permanent protection and preservation of Plum Island
- Support National Audubon positions on the following policy priorities: offshore drilling (Trump Administration 5-year plan); the dismantling of sage-grouse conservation plans within the Forest Service; drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; the 2018 Farm Bill; and Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Support the beneficial use of dredged material to restore habitat and protect communities; and advocate for the inclusion of the Stratford Point Living Shoreline project in the 10 projects authorized in The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

- Endorse the LIS Reauthorization and Stewardship Act and advocate for passage
- Secure support for the establishment of Great Thicket NWR
- Advocate for the passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Secure sustainable funding for key programs during annual budget and appropriations bills that fund critical conservation and stewardship programs that benefit the ecosystems of the Long Island Sound
- Support National Audubon's federal policy initiatives related to climate change and increase constituency engagement

***\* Document is subject to change.***