July 23,2026 – Email Response from Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer, National Audubon Society

Dear Leigh, Liz and Sue,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter and for your continued leadership on behalf of birds and the habitats they depend on. We appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective.

We share your commitment to the Endangered Species Act and other longstanding, bipartisan conservation laws that have protected birds, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on for generations. These laws have helped conserve imperiled species while safeguarding the forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coasts that provide clean water, strengthen climate resilience, and support communities across the country. We believe healthy habitats are central to fulfilling the promise of the Endangered Species Act and remain committed to the science-based, collaborative approach that has made it one of our nation's most successful environmental laws.

After thoughtful consideration, we have decided not to join this litigation. Protecting birds and habitat requires a range of complementary approaches, and litigation, science, policy, and on-the-ground conservation each play an important role. While partner organizations are pursuing litigation on this issue, Audubon believes our greatest contribution at this time is to continue working with decision-makers and partners to advance science-based conservation approaches that protect and restore the habitats birds depend on. Together, these complementary efforts help achieve lasting conservation outcomes and strengthen the broader conservation movement.

This same approach guides Audubon's work every day. Through Flight Plan, we are advancing conservation across the hemisphere at a scale that delivers measurable benefits for birds, communities, and the places we all depend on. Since launching Flight Plan, we have:

- Influenced more than 200 million acres toward our goal of conserving 300 million acres of connected, climate-resilient habitat, including 80.3 million acres already conserved and another 152.2 million acres currently in progress.
- Helped keep an estimated 6.1 billion tons of carbon stored in forests, wetlands, and grasslands through natural climate solutions that benefit birds, communities, and the climate.
- Advanced bipartisan conservation policy by working with leaders at the federal, state, and local levels to secure meaningful conservation investments and policy outcomes that benefit birds and people.

Thank you again for your partnership and all that you do on behalf of birds and conservation. We are grateful to have such dedicated leaders working alongside us and look forward to continuing our shared work to protect birds, the habitats they depend on, and the benefits those places provide to people and communities.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would simply like to talk further. I always welcome the opportunity to connect and can be reached directly at 909-964-5325.

Best,

Marshall Johnson

Chief Conservation Officer