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December 15, 2017

Dear Senator Warren,

Birds are a critical part of our natural world, yet each year it is estimated that close to 1 billion are killed through collisions with the windows of buildings; window strikes are the leading cause of death for migratory birds. To help address this issue, Mass Audubon has recently endorsed **S.1920/H.R.2542 the Federal Bird-safe buildings act of 2017 (Sen. Cory Booker [D-New Jersey], Rep. Mike Quigley [D-Illinois])**, and requests that you cosponsor this legislation.

Mass Audubon is the oldest and largest non-profit conservation and environmental education organization in New England. Together with over 125,000 members and supporters we conserve over 37,000 acres of land in Massachusetts, protecting the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Each year, our statewide sanctuaries welcome thousands of visitors and provide education programs for over 225,000 children and adults.

In North America, window strikes are estimated to kill **1 billion birds annually during the migration season**. Millions of houses of buildings, with their billions of windows, pose a significant threat to birds. Birds see the natural habitat mirrored in the glass and fly directly into the window, causing injury, and, in 50 % or more of the cases, death. To reduce this threat, several cities in North America, including Boston, Chicago and Toronto, have taken steps to reduce light from tall buildings during migratory bird season. However, these programs are voluntary and do not go far enough to address this critical threat to our environment.

This bill would mandate that all new federal renovations or construction to make at least 60 or 90 percent of their surfaces non-glass (except on historic landmarks). Any glass that is used would have to be fritted, screened, shaded, or UV-reflective, qualities proven to reduce bird collisions. Other conditions include shielding outdoor lights and regularly surveying for stunned or dead birds. Any glass that is used would have to be fritted, screened, shaded, or UV-reflective, qualities proven to reduce bird collisions. Other conditions include shielding outdoor lights and regularly surveying for stunned or dead birds.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Mass Audubon's 2017 State of the Birds report recognizes collisions with windows as a top threat to bird populations, recommends that homeowners and municipalities take steps to reduce this hazard. Again, we request that you consider cosponsoring **S.1920/H.R.2542 the Federal Bird-safe buildings act of 2017 (Sen. Cory Booker [D-New Jersey], Rep. Mike Quigley [D-Illinois])** and greatly appreciate your commitment to working with us to protect the nature of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John J. Clarke".

John J. Clarke  
Director of Public Policy & Government Relations