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Testimony on:
S.2005/H.2802, *An Act to secure a clean energy future*

Before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
September 24, 2019

Dear Chairman Barrett and Chairman Golden,

Mass Audubon thanks the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy for the opportunity to comment on **S.2005/H.2802**, *An Act to secure a clean energy future*, which will set Massachusetts on the right path for mitigating the devastating effects of climate change. Mass Audubon **supports this bill** and has made it one of our major priorities this legislative session.

The climate of Massachusetts is already changing – and with it our natural lands, waters, and wildlife. These changes are affecting our health, the nature we love, and the natural resources on which we depend. Fortunately, we still have time to correct our course and align the Commonwealth’s climate strategy with the best scientific data available. **S.2005/H.2802** will do just this by ensuring the policies we put in place will lower our greenhouse gas emissions while creating a flourishing clean energy economy.

An Act to secure a clean energy future provides a clear and comprehensive path forward for the Commonwealth. It sets 2050 as our net-zero emissions goal as well as sets sector-specific deadlines for market-based compliance, such as carbon pricing, that would cover all emissions by 2022. The legislation also goes beyond these topline goals and sets specific targets throughout the clean energy economy to ensure Massachusetts stays on track to reduce emissions. Some of these goals include:

- Increasing the number of state-owned electric vehicles;
- Incentivizing electric vehicle purchases for residents
- Increasing access to solar panels
- Eliminate net metering for solar
- Setting minimum standards for energy storage on our grid network
- Increasing offshore wind

S.2005/H.2802 will also make some needed improvements to strengthen the Commonwealth’s definition of an “Environmental Justice Population.” These improvements will not only protect all people living in Massachusetts, but will also ensure that everyone has equal access to environmental and energy programs and benefits that the state provides.

Mass Audubon requests the Committee report **S.2005/H.2802** favorably out of committee.

Thank you for taking the time to review our comments.

Mike Cusher
Legislative Director