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Senator John Barasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Senator Whitehouse,

On behalf of Audubon's one million plus members, thank you for introducing the "Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act" or "USE IT Act." This bipartisan bill aims to facilitate additional research and development of carbon capture technologies that reduce emissions.

The USE IT Act builds on the successful reform and extension of the federal 45Q tax credit by establishing a prize program for early-stage direct-air capture research and demonstration to spur investment and innovation in this technology. Removing CO2 directly from the atmosphere will be critical to achieving meaningful emissions reductions in the future.

Audubon is encouraged that your bill also provides federal funding dedicated to developing new uses of captured CO2. This provision may help position the United States as a leader in the field. The bill also creates task forces with stakeholders from federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and industries to recommend improvements in coordinating and advancing carbon capture, utilization, and storage projects.

In 2014, Audubon published its [Birds and Climate Change Report](#). The study shows that more than half of the bird species in North America could lose at least fifty percent of their current ranges by 2080 due to rising temperatures. These species include the [Bald Eagle](#), the [American Kestrel](#), and the [Northern Harrier](#).

Audubon believes our nation needs to pursue an array of common-sense, bipartisan approaches that reduce carbon emissions at the speed and scale necessary to protect birds and people. Advancing carbon capture technology should be part of a comprehensive solution set to address a changing climate. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, carbon capture is vital to meeting mid-century goals for reducing carbon emissions.

Audubon appreciates your bipartisan leadership on this legislation. We look forward to continuing to work together to protect birds and the places they need, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Justin Stokes
Senior Director, Government Affairs
National Audubon Society