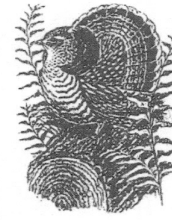


PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON COUNCIL
2080 LINGLESTOWN RD, STE 201, HARRISBURG, PA 17110
paauduboncouncil@gmail.com



June 13, 2022

RE: Audubon Supports Growing Greener III/SB 525 & HB 2020

Dear State Senators and State Representatives,

On behalf of the Audubon network in Pennsylvania, Audubon MidAtlantic and the Pennsylvania Audubon Council we urge your support for the Growing Greener III legislation: **SB 525** and **HB 2020**. The Pennsylvania Audubon Council is a coalition of the twenty-one chapters of the National Audubon Society. Our chapters serve communities across the Commonwealth with wide range of programs, conservation activities and projects that engage their members and the general public in efforts to benefit birds, wildlife, and people. Audubon is "local everywhere." Our Audubon chapter network touches every corner of the state and includes active participation in virtually all legislative boundaries - making Growing Greener III truly a statewide priority for Audubon. The Pennsylvania Audubon Council provides our chapter network a means to lend our collective voice on a range of conservation issues. The chapters and Council also work in coordination with Audubon MidAtlantic, the Regional Office of the National Audubon Society.

The full funding of our state agencies like the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is a conservation issue of our highest priority. **There is a unique opportunity before the General Assembly that we urge every state representative and state senator to seize this moment!** At the heart of this opportunity is the proposal to allocate \$500 million from the America Recovery Act to DCNR and Growing Greener III. The testimony of DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn, provided earlier this spring before the Pennsylvania State Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, profiled how these funds are a critical investment to underwrite a host of projects, many long deferred, by DCNR and our conservation partners throughout the Commonwealth.

Jim Brown, Director of Policy for Audubon Mid-Atlantic, shares Audubon's enthusiastic support for Growing Greener III. He cites the incredible opportunity it presents to increase green infrastructure, create more parks, and protect important bird habitats across the state for the benefit of both wildlife and people. The Pennsylvania Audubon Council recognizes the many needs to address long deferred issues in our irreplaceable system of state parks. Our chapters promote the use of our state parks with the general public by offering bird walks, conduction community science programs like the Audubon Christmas Bird, Count, Climate Watch, Hawk Watches, the Great Backyard Bird Count and so much more. Chapters often partner with park "cleanup" events, tree plantings, and other projects. We treasure our system of state parks and urge your support for Growing Greener III.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leigh Altadonna". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Leigh Altadonna, President
Pennsylvania Audubon Council

c. Jim Brown, Audubon MidAtlantic Director of Policy
Pennsylvania Audubon Chapter Leaders
Pennsylvania Audubon Council Executive Board