



January 27, 2018

Dear Arizona Congressional Delegation,

We, Audubon Arizona and the Audubon Chapters of Arizona, urge you to not support amendments to H.R. 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act, which would weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). A proposed amendment has been introduced in the House Natural Resources Committee that would create a dangerous loophole for industries to ignore the critical protections under the MBTA. The MBTA has effectively protected our nation's migratory birds for 100 years and we ask you to continue this legacy by not supporting this unnecessary Amendment to H.R. 4239.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act not only protects birds that travel across our national and international borders, but also the economy which has been built around watching and enjoying those same birds. Every year bird and wildlife watching in Arizona generates a \$1.4 billion economic impact. Many of those birds which people follow to Arizona have traveled from such places as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which provides critical habitat for 40% of bird species in the United States. These migratory species are the backbone of the bird watching industry and rely on the protections of the MBTA throughout their long journeys.

This year marks the 100th anniversary for the MBTA and this landmark agreement between nations is more important than ever. Legislative and administrative actions that weaken the purposes of the MBTA poses unnecessary risks to this historic treaty. and is not needed to meet the goals of the rest of H.R. 4239. This Amendment would remove one of the best incentives for industry to take proactive measures to protect birds from incidental harm, and would instead place the burden of this impact on the public. Examples include industry efforts to develop bird-friendly designs for wind power and careful consideration of where wind farms are located to minimize death of birds. We encourage you to uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and oppose legislation, including amendments such as the one proposed for H.R. 4239, that would weaken the protections for migratory birds.

Sincerely,

Audubon Arizona (Statewide)

Desert Rivers Audubon (CD1, 5, and 9)

Maricopa Audubon Society (CD1, 4, 6, 7, and 9)

Northern Arizona Audubon Society (CD1 and 4)

Prescott Audubon (CD1 and 4)

Sonoran Audubon Society (CD3, 4, 7, and 8)

Tucson Audubon Society (CD1, 2, and 3)

White Mountains Audubon Society (CD1)

Yuma Audubon Society (CD3 and 4)

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