



Six Beacon Street, Suite 1025, Boston, MA 02108
617-523-8448 mcusher@massaudubon.org

Testimony on:

S.1937/H.2858, *An Act improving outdoor lighting and increasing dark-sky visibility*

Before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
May 30, 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.1937/H.2858**, which encourages darkening of night skies. Mass Audubon **supports this bill** and recognizes it as an important means of protecting wildlife, limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and saving money.

Brightly lit towers and buildings can pose risks to migratory birds by causing them to become disoriented, often “trapping” them into circling a building to the point of exhaustion. Reducing unnecessary outdoor lighting would aid these birds in successfully completing their migrations.

This bill would limit unnecessary nighttime lighting which would:

- Benefit bird and migratory species with the implementation of statewide lighting reduction efforts;
- Reduce energy consumption;
- Reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change, helping to meet statewide goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act;
- Result in statewide cost savings due to lower energy use.

Mass Audubon has worked in the past with the City of Boston on the similarly focused, highly successful Lights Out Boston campaign, for which many of Boston’s most prominent buildings turned off interior lights from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. during the spring and fall bird migration seasons. We hope to see further benefits to birds and other migratory species with the implementation of statewide lighting reduction efforts.

We urge you to consider all of the environmental and economic benefits of this bill and report it out favorably.

Thank you for taking the time to review our comments.

Mike Cusher
Legislative Director