



STATE LEGISLATION GENERALLY OPPOSED BY MASS AUDUBON

Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations

Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 45 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work.

Mass Audubon embraces a vision of a Massachusetts in which people appreciate and understand native plants and animals and their habitats and work together to ensure that they are truly protected. At times, our vision will collide with proposed activities that are incompatible with biodiversity conservation. We will act decisively yet fairly to abate these threats. We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professional conduct and take great pains to discuss controversial issues with relevant stakeholders to find consensus and avert unnecessary conflicts.

Stewardship Through Vigilance

In general, Mass Audubon opposes the following:

- Bills or outside sections of budgets that impact negatively the corporate interests of, or property owned and/or managed by, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc.
- Bills or outside sections of budgets that mandate off-road vehicle (ORV) riding at all state forests and parks and wildlife management areas under the care and custody of the Department of Conservation & Recreation and Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.
- Bills or outside sections of budgets that seek to raid the assets of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund.
- Bills or outside sections of budgets that transfer municipal or state-owned conservation or parkland, held in trust under Article 97 of the Amendments of the state Constitution, for inconsistent purposes without demonstrating full analysis of alternatives, providing compensation of equal or greater value, or without permanently protecting conservation resources on the transferred property.
- Bills or outside sections of budgets that weaken or grant exemptions to major state environmental laws, including the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, Rivers Protection Act, Wetlands Protection Act, Water Management Act, Interbasin Transfer Act, and Title V-State Sanitary Code.
- Bills or outside sections of budgets that seek to roll back local home-rule authority by providing for a state wide "uniform code" in place of municipal health regulations, and wetland protection by-laws and ordinances.

October 2008