

National Audubon Society 231 West 800 South, Suite E Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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July 26, 2023

The Honorable Mike Lee U.S. Senate 363 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitt Romney U.S. Senate 354 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Curtis U.S. House of Representatives 2323 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Stewart U.S. House of Representatives 166 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Burgess Owens U.S. House of Representatives 309 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Blake Moore U.S. House of Representatives 1131 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: <u>Audubon Support for the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act (H.R. 4094, S. 1955)</u>

Dear Utah Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of National Audubon Society (Audubon), I write to express support for *the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act*. Audubon and its Saline Lakes Program, as part of our Western Water Initiative, works to advance balanced solutions for water use to ensure that birds, ecosystems, people, and economies that rely on water resources can thrive.

For more than 25 years, Audubon has been working to protect Great Salt Lake, including managing the Gillmor Sanctuary on the Shore of Great Salt Lake to provide wetland habitat for shorebirds and other waterbirds.

Great Salt Lake and other saline lake ecosystems are faced with serious challenges resulting from decreased inflows and diversions, drought, and the impacts of a changing climate. The devastating implications of drying lakes on people, businesses and the environment throughout the world is well known.

Increasing water conservation efforts and reducing water consumption is particularly essential to preserve Great Salt Lake and its surrounding wetlands habitats. Thus, many of our efforts in Utah support frameworks and tools to help communities and businesses conserve and balance demand for the state's limited water supplies.

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The *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* provides an important means to aid the State of Utah and its residents in their continuing efforts to stretch limited water supplies through the Central Utah Project Completion Act's purpose of promoting water conservation projects in the Great Salt Lake basin, which could in turn benefit the lake and surrounding communities.

We greatly appreciate the support of the entire Utah Congressional Delegation in introducing and advancing the *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act*.

Sincerely,

Marcelle Shoop

Marcella

Director, Saline Lakes Program National Audubon Society

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