



**National and  
International Programs**  
1200 18th Street, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036

202.861.2242  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and  
Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the National Audubon Society's 1.9 million members, we write to you to express our grave concerns about the potential inclusion of harmful environmental provisions like those found in H.R. 1, as well as repeals of critical provisions from the *Inflation Reduction Act* (P.L. 117-169) in legislation to raise the debt ceiling.

These policies would result in a loss of jobs, reduce U.S. competitiveness, roll back critical protections for environmental justice, and undermine our commitment to combatting the climate crisis. The National Audubon Society adamantly opposes efforts to include these provisions and urges both chambers to raise the debt ceiling without delay.

Through the *Inflation Reduction Act*, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58), and the *CHIPS and Science Act* (P.L. 117-167), Congress took bold steps to ensure the U.S.

remains competitive in a fast-growing global clean energy market while modernizing our aging infrastructure and generating hundreds of thousands of new high-paying, high-quality jobs across the country. For instance, since fall 2022, over \$150 billion in investments in domestic utility-scale clean power have been announced.<sup>1</sup> Already, this has translated to an expected 18,000 high-paying jobs for Americans, a figure expected to grow dramatically as these investments continue in response to tax provisions included in the *Inflation Reduction Act*.

The National Audubon Society is also deeply concerned about efforts to include the *Lower Energy Costs Act* (H.R. 1; 118<sup>th</sup> Congress) in debt ceiling legislation. While we look forward to working with you on provisions that would speed up the building of critical infrastructure, including clean energy and electric transmission, Audubon is concerned that this specific legislation would do more harm than good and rollback critical environmental protections. As such, Audubon also opposes any effort to attach H.R. 1 to a debt ceiling package.

Lastly, while Audubon is encouraged by the number of thoughtful pieces of legislation put forth by a broad spectrum of your Members regarding efforts to reform federal permitting on public and private lands, given the diversity of viewpoints offered and the complexity of proposed permitting reform legislation, we strongly urge Congress to consider any such legislation under regular order.

A failure to raise the debt ceiling would be disastrous for the U.S. economy and our standing in the world. However, policies that would erode fundamental environmental protections, undo investments in our economic competitiveness, eliminate high-paying jobs for Americans, and undermine our ability to combat the climate crisis, are not the answer. Instead, it is time for Congress to do its job and honor its responsibility to the American people by raising the debt ceiling without delay.  
Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Felice Stadler  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
National Audubon Society  
202-657-8651

cc:

Ali Zaidi - Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor  
John Podesta - Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation  
Brenda Mallory - Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2023/04/17/since-ira-150-billion-investment-46-factories-18000-jobs-in-renewable-energy/>