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Senator Tim Schaffer  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
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Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Schaffer:

On behalf of the over 54,000 Audubon members in Ohio, Audubon Great Lakes expresses strong opposition to HB175 which would deregulate certain ephemeral water features. This bill removes regulatory protections for over 36,000 miles of ephemeral streams across the great state of Ohio, opening them up to pollution and degradation which would be detrimental to the hundreds of bird species that call Ohio home.

Ephemeral streams provide critical habitat to wildlife, especially for birds that depend on them to rest and refuel, as well as breed, nest and raise their young. The Prothonotary Warbler, an Ohio species of concern that has seen dramatic population declines, travels thousands of miles twice a year and depends on habitat like ephemeral streams to survive on this harrowing migration journey.

In addition, ephemeral streams help provide clean drinking water, protect local communities from flooding and help prevent nutrient run-off that contributes to harmful algal blooms. Whether a stream flows year-round or a few weeks per year, it supports wildlife, native vegetation and local communities. We must continue to protect these important ephemeral streams for the benefit of both birds and people in Ohio.

Audubon Great Lakes urges you and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to oppose HB175 to protect the water quality that both Ohio's birds and millions of Ohioans depend upon every day.

Sincerely,

Marnie Urso  
Senior Policy Director  
Audubon Great Lakes

***About Audubon Great Lakes***

*Audubon Great Lakes is a regional office of The National Audubon Society, which protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive.*