



Committee on State and Local Government
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 4, 2023

RE: LD 239, *An Act to Establish the Hessel's Hairstreak as the Maine State Butterfly*

Dear Chair Nangle, Chair Stover, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Francesca Gundrum and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation non-profit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine’s wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members and supporters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 239, *An Act to Establish the Hessel's Hairstreak as the Maine State Butterfly*.

Our organization is eager to support Representative Gramlich's amendment to designate the Pink-edged Sulphur as the Maine State Butterfly. Found statewide, this butterfly spends the spring and summer months in nearly every corner of the Pine Tree State. The Pink-edged Sulfur has a roughly 2-inch wingspan, yellow wings and legs, a single eyespot on its hindwings, and bright pink antennae and outline along its wings. The species is found in shrubby openings in woods or bogs and, best of all, they prefer to lay their eggs on the leaves of Maine's famous state fruit: blueberry plants!

Maine Audubon thanks the students of Old Orchard Beach's Loranger Middle School for their critical role in the process to select our state's butterfly. Their dedication and enthusiasm are admirable. Thank you to Representative Gramlich and to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for facilitating this important initiative. We are pleased to support this bill and the positive endeavors it could spark for the conservation of Maine's butterflies and insects. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francesca Gundrum".

Francesca “Ches” Gundrum
Policy Advocate