



July 25, 2012

Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

Senate President Therese Murray
State House, Suite 332
Boston, MA 02133

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jean Young
President

Dear Senate President Murray:

Mark Nelson
Vice President

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) strongly supports HB4306 (formerly HB3270), "An Act Relative to Reducing Phosphorus Runoff," which was recently passed by the House of Representatives and it is now under consideration by the Senate.

Robert Cunningham
Treasurer

If enacted into law, HB4306 would reduce the amount of phosphorus in commercial lawn fertilizer for non-agricultural uses, which would improve the water quality of the Commonwealth's freshwater rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, including the over 400 sizable ponds found on Cape Cod.

Susan Shephard
Clerk

Kristin Andres

Freshwater ponds and rivers are susceptible to the effects of phosphorus, with significant sources coming from wastewater and fertilizers. Phosphorus from fertilizers is typically carried from lawns to water bodies by stormwater runoff, where this pollutant causes algal blooms and a resulting depletion of oxygen that harms water quality, destroys aquatic ecosystems, impacts tourism and reduces property values. The cost for treating phosphorus-impaired ponds is substantial, and more communities will face this reality as land use near freshwater bodies continues to intensify. Many of Cape Cod's once-pristine ponds are now showing the effects of phosphorus pollution, including seasonal fish kills.

Sandy Bayne

Michael Corrigan

Anne Ekstrom

Katherine Garofoli

Jean C. Mangiafico

Paula Miller

Most New England soils already contain sufficient levels of phosphorus, making the addition of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers unnecessary in most cases. To date, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Virginia have adopted bans or restrictions on the sale or use of phosphorus in fertilizer. In Massachusetts, the adoption of legislation such as HB4306 that restricts the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers is long overdue.

Jonathan Moore

Erica Parra

Mark H. Robinson

Janice Walford

Daniel Webb

APCC thanks you for your consideration of this letter and urges you to support HB4306, which would improve water quality on Cape Cod and throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

Don Keeran
Assistant Director

cc: Chairman Stephen Brewer, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Daniel Wolf

3010 Main Street | P.O. Box 398 | Barnstable, MA 02630-0398

Toll Free: 1-877-955-4142 | Tel: 508-362-4226 | Fax: 508-362-4227 | info@apcc.org | www.apcc.org