



May 15, 2014

Dear Senator:

**The undersigned organizations urge your support of several proposed environmental amendments to the Senate Ways and Means FY2015 budget.** We thank the Senate Ways and Means Committee for its work on the budget, but overall the environmental agencies are still receiving well below the funding allocated to them prior to the recession.

In FY2009, at approximately \$230M, the entire environmental operating budget made up 0.84% of the Commonwealth's overall operating budget. Today, although the Commonwealth's economy is bouncing back, the Senate Ways and Means FY2015 budget provides just \$209.8M for environmental programs, which equates to a mere 0.59% of the Commonwealth's overall operating budget. The current funding level does not provide adequate resources to critical programs that protect the environment and public health. As noted in this year's Green Budget, **relatively small investments in state environmental programs promote savings for small businesses, leverage millions of dollars in federal and other non-state funds, and support our green economy.**

**Please sign on as a co-sponsor to the following amendments:**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Department of Environmental Protection Administration (line-item 2200-0100): Sen. Eldridge**

Restores DEP's main line-item to 93% of its FY2009 level by providing an increase of \$5.2M. This partial restoration would help DEP protect public health, permit new development in a timely manner, and ensure that our air and water are clean. Although the Senate Ways and Means budget provides a small increase over FY2014 for this line-item, its budget still provides approximately 20% less funding than in FY2009.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Minney.Varghese@masenate.gov](mailto:Minney.Varghese@masenate.gov)

**Recycling & Solid Waste Master Plan Operations (line-item 2200-0107): Sen. Creem**

Restores \$400,000 for recycling programs. Since FY2009, funding for recycling has been cut by more than 80%. Recycling has proven to be a job creator, and we are missing opportunities by not providing sufficient funding for these programs. Increasing funding for this line-item will help DEP fully implement the recently revised Solid Waste Master Plan.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Catherine.Anderson@masenate.gov](mailto:Catherine.Anderson@masenate.gov)

**Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (line-item 2260-8870): Sen. Downing**

Restores \$2.7M to the program to bring funding to the FY2009 funding level. Program staff oversee clean-up of many heavily polluted sites and promote economic development through the Brownfields Support Team that provides focused technical assistance for sites with important redevelopment potential. While the Senate Ways and Means budget provides an increase over FY2014, the agency is still 17% below its FY2009 funding level.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Christopher.Gilrein@masenate.gov](mailto:Christopher.Gilrein@masenate.gov)

## **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

### **State Parks & Recreation (line-item 2810-0100): Sen. Rush**

Restores \$3.97M to our state and urban park system to bring the line-item to \$45.6M. Since FY2009, funding for our state parks, forest, and beaches has been cut 27%, resulting in unmaintained and closed facilities, shorter seasons, and a lack of staff for programs and enforcement. The Senate Ways and Means budget provides \$929,600 less funding for our state parks than in FY2014. While not fully restoring funding to FY2009 levels of \$56M, this increase would help provide for open, staffed, well-maintained facilities, which support the Commonwealth's \$10B outdoor recreation economy.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [John.Regan@masenate.gov](mailto:John.Regan@masenate.gov)

### **DCR Seasonals (line-item 2800-0501): Sen. Timilty**

Restores approximately \$570,800 to DCR Seasonal Staffing which would bring this line item closer to FY2009 levels. This funding will allow DCR to add staff and lengthen the season at various facilities around the Commonwealth such as beaches and pools. While the Senate Ways and Means budget did increase funding for seasonal staff, this line-item is still \$1.77M less than in FY2009.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Elizabeth.Broda@masenate.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Broda@masenate.gov)

### **Watershed Management (line-item 2800-0101): Sen. Brownsberger**

Restores approximately \$435,000 to the Watershed Management program to bring it back to about 70% of its FY2009 level of \$2.1M. The Office of Watershed Management is crucial to managing and protecting the drinking water supply in the Commonwealth.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Andrew.Bettinelli@masenate.gov](mailto:Andrew.Bettinelli@masenate.gov)

### **Stormwater Management (line-item 2800-0401): Sen. Eldridge**

Restores funding by approximately \$487,000, returning Stormwater Management funding to 82% of its FY2009 level of \$1.1M. Since FY2009, this program has been cut by 63%. Stormwater runoff poses a serious pollution threat to all water bodies in the Commonwealth.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Minney.Varghese@masenate.gov](mailto:Minney.Varghese@masenate.gov)

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

### **Division of Ecological Restoration (line-item 2300-0101): Sen. Wolf**

Increases funding for river protection by \$156,000. DER restores and protects the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. At any given time, DER staff typically support over 70 restoration projects that improve stream flow, protect drinking water, reduce flooding, restore habitat, and provide fish passage. DER's ability to leverage non-state funds through federal grants is to be commended, and a small investment in this program will pay dividends.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Katie.Barry@malegislature.gov](mailto:Katie.Barry@malegislature.gov)

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **DAR Administration (line-item 2511-0100): Sen. Pacheco**

Restores approximately \$500,000 to this line-item, which would bring funding up to the FY2009 level. DAR performs crucial work with the agricultural community to protect farmland and keep farms viable. With additional funds, DAR could expand programs to promote energy efficiency and environmental best management practices.

- To co-sponsor, please contact: [Kyle.Murray@masenate.gov](mailto:Kyle.Murray@masenate.gov)

## **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

### **GIS to Support Communities (new line-item: 1599-xxxx): Sen. Michael Moore**

Provides \$350,000 in funding for a new line-item for MassGIS to expand operations, better plan for climate change, provide increased technical assistance, and identify sustainable development opportunities in the Commonwealth.

➤ To co-sponsor, please contact: [Julia.DelSobral@masenate.gov](mailto:Julia.DelSobral@masenate.gov)

**We urge the Senate to adequately fund protection of natural resources and public health.** Please call Erica Mattison at the Environmental League of Massachusetts at 617-742-2553 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Environmental League of Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club

Arborway Coalition

Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC)

Berkshire Natural Resources Council

Boston Cyclists Union

Boston Harbor Island Alliance

Boston Park Advocates

Buzzards Bay Coalition

Charles River Conservancy

Charles River Watershed Association

Clean Water Action MA

Conservation Law Foundation

Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Environment Mass

Environmental Business Council

Esplanade Association

Essex County Greenbelt Association

Franklin Land Trust

Franklin Park Coalition

Friends of Alewife Reservation

Friends of the Blue Hills

Green Decade Newton

Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition

Jones River Watershed Association

Lakes & Ponds Association of Western

Massachusetts

Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust

Mass Audubon

Massachusetts Association of Conservation

Commissions

Massachusetts Climate Action Network

Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond

Associations

Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance

Massachusetts Horticultural Society

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and  
Scientists (MOSES)

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

Massachusetts Sierra Club

Mystic River Watershed Association

Nashua River Watershed Association

Neponset River Watershed Association

New England Wild Flower Society

North and South Rivers Watershed Association

OARS: For the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord  
Rivers

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

Sudbury Valley Trustees

Tatnuck Brook Watershed Association

The Nature Conservancy - Massachusetts

The Trustees of Reservations