



June 5, 2015

Ed DeWitt
Executive Director

Chairwoman Anne M. Gobi
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 513

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RE: Support for The Public Lands Preservation Act, SB402/HB623

Elliott Carr

Dear Chairwoman Gobi, Chairman Schmid and Members of the Committee:

Michael Corrigan

Anne Ekstrom

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) expresses its support of SB402/HB623, The Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA), and urges the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to report the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Margo Fenn

Katherine Garofoli

Elizabeth Jenkins

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization. Representing more than 5,000 members, APCC's mission is to promote policies and programs that protect and enhance the Cape's natural resources. APCC focuses its efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water and wetland resources, the preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible, planned growth, and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

Blue Magruder

Eliza McClennen

Elizabeth Nill

Donald Palladino

Although Cape Cod is famed for its scenic vistas, efforts to preserve our natural habitats and open spaces have had difficulty keeping pace with the intense development pressure that occurred over the last several decades. Today, only about 13 percent of the Cape remains undeveloped and unprotected. Ensuring that the Cape's hard-earned land conservation achievements will not be eroded by future competing demands is a high environmental, economic and community character priority for the region.

Daniel Webb

That is why adoption of the PLPA is critically important to Cape Cod, as it is to the rest of Massachusetts. The PLPA would set in place a procedure for replacing Article 97 land proposed for disposition with land of comparable natural resource value, acreage and location. This bill will help maintain a no net loss of these constitutionally protected Article 97 lands, which are preserved for the benefit of the public and dedicated for use as conservation, parks, forests, watersheds and other natural resource protection purposes. These lands serve a vital role in protecting wildlife habitat, keeping our water and air clean, providing recreational opportunities, promoting tourism, bolstering the state's economy and

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improving quality of life.

APCC respectfully requests the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to act swiftly in moving the PLPA forward through the legislative process. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,



Ed DeWitt
Executive Director



Don Keeran
Assistant Director

cc: Senator Daniel Wolf
Senator Viriato deMacedo
Representative Timothy Madden
Representative Timothy Whelan
Representative Brian Mannal
Representative David Vieira
Representative Sarah Peake
Representative Randy Hunt