



April 20, 2017

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Executive Director

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Senator Michael Brady, Senate Chairman
Joint Committee on Revenue
Room 109-E
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Jay Kaufman, House Chairman
Joint Committee on Revenue
Room 34
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Testimony in Support of *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue (S.1504, H.2615)*

Dear Chairman Brady and Chairman Kaufman:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) submits this written testimony expressing strong support for *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue (S.1504, H.2615)* and urges the Joint Committee on Revenue to move swiftly in reporting this bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Established in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization. Represented by over 5,000 members, APCC's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of Cape Cod.

Since it was first adopted into law in 2000, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) has proven to be a highly effective partnership between the Commonwealth and its municipalities. It has been responsible for thousands of projects that preserve open space, create affordable housing, preserve historic resources and provide recreational opportunities across Massachusetts. In the 15 towns on Cape Cod, the CPA has enabled the permanent conservation of hundreds of acres of open space that protect sensitive habitat and natural resource areas, safeguard public drinking water supplies and help preserve our region's character and quality of life.

The key to this successful state/municipal partnership is the combination of locally-raised revenues from municipal property taxes matched with state money from the Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPTF) that is generated from a surcharge on Registry of Deeds filings. However, the CPTF funding is increasingly falling short of the match distributions that communities need in order to adequately sustain the CPA program. For example, it is estimated that in the 2018 fiscal year the base match to communities will dip to a record low of less than 20 percent.

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If adopted into law, *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* would maintain a 50 percent minimum base match for every participating municipality by adjusting, as necessary, the Registry of Deeds filing surcharge. This much-needed amendment to the Community Preservation Act will help ensure the program's sustainability and allow for greater participation among Massachusetts' cities and towns.

As demonstrated time after time in municipalities across the state, the CPA program is an investment that produces lasting environmental, social and economic benefits for individual communities as well as the Commonwealth as a whole. APCC therefore asks the Joint Committee on Revenue for its support of *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* and that it report this bill out favorably.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Julian Cyr
Sen. Viriato deMacedo
Rep. Sarah Peake
Rep. Timothy Whelan
Rep. William Crocker
Rep. David Vieira
Rep. Dylan Fernandes
Rep. Randy Hunt