



May 26, 2017

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

The Honorable Anne M. Gobi, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 513
State House
Boston, MA 02133

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The Honorable Gailanne Cariddi, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 473F
State House
Boston, MA 02133

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RE: Written Testimony in Support of An Act Providing for the Establishment of a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan in Response to Climate Change (S472, H2147)

Elliott Carr

Michael Corrigan

Dear Chairwoman Gobi, Chairwoman Cariddi and Committee Members:

Anne Ekstrom

Katherine Garofoli

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes in **strong support of S472/H2147, An Act Providing for the Establishment of a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan in Response to Climate Change (CAMP)**. We urge the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to act swiftly in reporting the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

DeeDee Holt

Thomas Huettner

Pat Hughes

Cheryl Lubin

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

Maureen O'Shea

Donald Palladino

Daniel Webb

Adverse impacts from climate change on Cape Cod's environmental and economic well-being are being experienced now and will only get worse. Cape Cod's great expanse of shoreline is particularly vulnerable to coastal erosion, flooding from coastal storms and other impacts attributed to sea level rise and a changing climate.

Projected sea level rise and increases in the frequency and severity of storms threaten the Cape's private property and public infrastructure. For example, a 2016 U.S. Geological Survey study commissioned by APCC determined that rising sea levels will affect the Cape's water table, threatening water supply wells with salinization and causing septic systems to flood in low-lying areas.

Recent research out of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution found that warmer ocean

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temperatures during certain periods in the first millennium were responsible for frequent occurrences of monster hurricanes along the U.S. coast. Based on those findings, the researchers warn that we should begin to plan for an increased occurrence of devastating Category 3 hurricanes as our oceans continue to warm.

In addition, many of the Cape's diverse and globally significant ecological habitats face uncertain futures due to seawater inundation, rising temperatures, drought and other changing climatic conditions. The Cape Cod region, along with the rest of Massachusetts, must develop a comprehensive management plan to effectively address the challenges of climate change.

The CAMP legislation would direct Massachusetts to develop and implement a climate change management plan to ensure that the state's transportation, energy, communication, emergency response and public health systems are prepared for climate change and climate change-related emergencies. It would require the state's natural resources, built environment and human populations to be considered in an assessment of the state's vulnerabilities and in the development of a comprehensive preparedness plan.

Through funding sources already in place, the legislation would also establish a financial assistance program to help regional planning agencies implement CAMP, including development of adaptation strategies for each region of the state. And, CAMP would establish a program in which the state would work with municipalities and willing homeowners to acquire high risk coastal properties that repeatedly experience weather-related damage.

Massachusetts has been a national leader in promoting clean energy and establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction standards. But so far, we have lacked a comprehensive set of policies and strategies to better prepare our state, regional and local levels of government for the responsibility of protecting the people and resources of Massachusetts from the severe weather events and other adverse effects of climate change. Adopting CAMP into law is the logical and necessary action that must be taken to ensure that we are prepared for what lies ahead.

APCC thanks the Senate and House chairs and committee members for their thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc: Senator Julian Cyr
Senator Viriato deMacedo
Representative Sarah Peake
Representative Timothy Whelan
Representative William Crocker
Representative David Vieira
Representative Dylan Fernandes
Representative Randy Hunt