



May 16, 2018

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Executive Director

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Chairman Antonio Cabral
House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
Room 466
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: *An Act Promoting Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental and Natural Resource Protection, and Investment in Recreational Assets and Opportunity (H.4318)*

Dear Chairman Cabral:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes in support of *An Act Promoting Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental and Natural Resource Protection, and Investment in Recreational Assets and Opportunity (H.4318)*, and respectfully requests the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets to vote favorably on this bill. We additionally request that the committee look favorably on the inclusion of key amendments that would strengthen elements of the bill that address climate change adaptation and resiliency, as described below.

Established in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life.

Advocating for effective adaptation and resiliency planning in response to climate change for the Cape Cod region has become a major focus of APCC's efforts. As a result, APCC is an active member of the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition, which includes over fifty organizations across the state representing a diverse group of stakeholders advocating for better climate change resiliency for the Commonwealth.

APCC is grateful for the Legislature's serious commitment to addressing the issue of climate change and for its attention to this legislation, H.4318, which includes provisions that codify Governor Baker's Executive Order 569 for comprehensive adaptation management planning, including an Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation Plan as well as the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. These provisions in H.4318 are positive steps toward securing better climate adaptation and resiliency for Massachusetts, and we encourage the committee to act favorably on them.

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In addition, APCC strongly supports the friendly amendments to the outside section offered to your committee by the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition. We believe these amendments are critical for establishing a truly comprehensive and effective climate preparedness plan for the Commonwealth. These amendments include:

- **Consistency Language:** The inclusion of provisions that would ensure consistency in the development and implementation of the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The consistency language would apply to the revision of plans and policies as well as the rules, regulations and guidelines of all executive branch agencies to make them consistent with the state adaptation plan. The consistency provision would also apply to projects that trigger state review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. APCC believes this consistency language is essential for the Commonwealth's ability to effectively and comprehensively plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change, and should therefore be a central element of this legislation.
- **Advisory Group:** The creation of an Advisory Group, comprised of expert representatives of key sectors, which would offer input and assistance to the secretaries of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Public Safety and Security in the development, implementation and ongoing operation of the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- **Regulations for Land Subject to Coastal Flooding:** The inclusion of language directing the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate rules regulating land subject to coastal storm flowage, which is the only wetland resource that is not fully regulated under existing Massachusetts law. As Massachusetts continues to experience the impacts of increasingly frequent severe coastal storms and the advance of sea level rise, it becomes ever more important for the Commonwealth to finally promulgate regulations for the management of vulnerable locations that are subject to the effects of coastal storms. This amendment would address this missing piece in state wetlands regulations.

APCC thanks the committee chairs and members of the committee for your consideration of this bill and the proposed amendments. We respectfully ask for your favorable vote on these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Sarah Peake
Rep. Timothy Whelan
Rep. William Crocker
Rep. David Vieira
Rep. Dylan Fernandes
Rep. Randy Hunt