



May 21, 2019

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

Senator Anne Gobi, Chair
Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Chair
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

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RE: SUPPORT for – H.841 An Act Promoting Sustainable Investment, Economic Security, and Fiscal Responsibility with Respect to Climate Risks

Dear Chairs Gobi and Pignatelli:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes in strong support of H.841, *An Act Promoting Sustainable Investment, Economic Security, and Fiscal Responsibility with Respect to Climate Risks*.

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the protection, preservation and restoration of the Cape's natural resources. The Cape is geographically situated to receive the full brunt of climate change's impacts to the Massachusetts coast, from sea level rise, to coastal erosion to flooding from storm surge. These ever-increasing impacts are a direct threat to public infrastructure, private property and the natural coastal environment. On Cape Cod and throughout the state, assessing our vulnerabilities and implementing appropriate planning strategies to meet climate challenges is a critical priority.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Baker and the State Legislature last session, the Commonwealth now has much needed climate change adaptation planning programs and funding in place. However, the critically important statutory framework to make sure adaption planning is properly implemented is still lacking. We are in need of a clear mandate in statute to require the implementation of climate adaptation policies and regulations that are consistent and predictable. H.841 provides statutory certainty that will enable the Commonwealth and its communities to be better protected through the

execution of effective climate change adaptation planning policies by requiring:

- Consistency and predictability in state policies and regulations.
- Consideration of climate change risks in permitting and licensing decisions, financing and capital projects.
- Measures to ensure that climate adaptation actions address risks to vulnerable populations, including low income and minority populations.
- Assessments by investor-owned utilities that address climate risks to their facilities.
- A study by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards of the feasibility, impact, economics and merit of code improvements requiring that buildings be designed, sited and constructed to address and protect against climate risks.
- Opportunities for education and training for members of local boards and commissions about the risks of climate change.

Massachusetts must be prepared to effectively address the threats of climate change by making sure that adaption planning is implemented in a consistent, predictable and responsible manner. *An Act Promoting Sustainable Investment, Economic Security, and Fiscal Responsibility with Respect to Climate Risks* provides the missing component to our state's climate change adaptation planning by helping to ensure that our investments in the future are made wisely and that they are sustainable.

APCC respectfully urges the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to report this bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director



Don Keeran
Assistant Director

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