



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

April 29, 2019

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Boston, MA 02133

Michael Corrigan

RE: Support for *An Act Protecting the Natural Resources of the Commonwealth*
(S.459/H.732)

DeeDee Holt

Thomas Huettner

Dear Chair Gobi and Chair Pignatelli:

Pat Hughes

Cheryl Lubin

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) expresses its strong support of *An Act Protecting the Natural Resources of the Commonwealth* (S.459, H.732), also known as 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.

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary

Blue Magruder

Eliza McClennen

Maureen O'Shea

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization. Representing thousands of members on Cape Cod and across Massachusetts, 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.

Kris Ramsay

Robert Summersgill

Taryn Wilson

Although Cape Cod is famed for its iconic scenic vistas and globally unique natural resource areas, efforts to preserve our natural habitats and open spaces have struggled to keep pace with the intense development that occurred in recent decades across the region. 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 land use demands is a high environmental, economic and community

character priority for the region.

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 process 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 improving the quality of life of our citizens.

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,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director



Don Keeran
Assistant Director

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