



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

June 24, 2020

RE: Proposed Climate Change Amendments to the Regional Policy Plan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Sumner
President

Dear Members of the Cape Cod Commission:

Pat Hughes
Vice President

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape's leading nonprofit regional environmental advocacy and education organization, provides the following comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Regional Policy Plan.

Bob Ciolek
Treasurer

Jack Looney
Clerk

The 2018 Regional Policy Plan accurately identified climate change as a key regional challenge. The proposed amendments in the petition warrant consideration as they put forward reasonable goals and objectives for addressing climate change in the Regional Policy Plan, the document that is our blueprint for planning future economic growth, development and natural resource protection on Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Commission is uniquely positioned—and possesses the unique responsibility—to provide the necessary leadership and to establish the appropriate policies to help guide the Cape region on a path to net zero that is consistent with existing state policies and laws. Along with our increased understanding of the growing scope and severity of the challenges posed by climate change, so too must our urgency to act increase.

John Cumbler

Margo Fenn

DeeDee Holt

Thomas Huettner

Pat Hughes

Steven Koppel

Cheryl Lubin

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary

Blue Magruder

Eliza McClennen

Stephen Mealy

Kris Ramsay

Robert Summersgill

Taryn Wilson

The Cape Cod Commission has done an outstanding job in developing plans for increasing the Cape's climate resiliency. Programs such as the Cape Cod Climate Initiative, intended to develop a framework for climate action, are to be commended. APCC is committed to working with the Commission on this collaborative effort and expects to see aspects of the proposed amendments incorporated into the initiative. The Regional Policy Plan addresses the importance of climate adaptation and resiliency. The next step, and one that is most critical, is moving forward on actions that will mitigate climate change by evolving from "business as usual" on the Cape to rethinking our energy consumption, the type of energy we promote, our modes of transportation, and the necessity of protecting and restoring our natural resources that help sequester carbon. This does not diminish or supersede our existing regional priorities, goals or objectives; it enhances them.

As the Cape Cod region contemplates emerging from the current pandemic and restarting the economy, let's seize this opportunity to examine what we can change so that we don't follow the same mistakes that led us to this growing climate crisis. The proposed amendments are a good and timely first step. The Commission needs to help, even more than it already is, in leading the charge to a new and more aggressive approach to actively improving our climate response throughout all sectors.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director