



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

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Honorable Michael Barrett, Senate Chair
Honorable Jeffrey Roy, House Chair
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Support for An Act Relative to Municipal Energy Plans (H.3360)

Dear Chair Barrett, Chair Roy and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), I am submitting this letter in support of An Act Relative to Municipal Energy Plans (H.3360) along with additional information requested by Chair Barrett during the recent hearing for the bill held by the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Founded 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.

As mentioned during the hearing, APCC’s support for this legislation and our testimony reflect our observations of the difficulty the Cape Light Compact has experienced in attempting to remain a leader in providing efficiency savings above the state minimums.

Over the past 17 months, much has changed in Massachusetts with regard to energy. We now have An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy and an Interim Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030. Combined, these two achievements have created a clear path forward for addressing the climate crisis in Massachusetts.

It is now time to allow cities and towns to step up and pursue the goals and objectives contained in the above-mentioned new law and plan. The 21 Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard towns that administer the MassSAVE program are ready to do just that. For example, the Compact has proposed to offer the innovative Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering or “CVEO,” to move low-and moderate-income customers off fossil fuels and install air source heat pumps, paired with solar and batteries, and to serve our small businesses with a suite of services designed to help them reduce their carbon footprint and manage their overall energy usage. This offering is an enhancement to

the statewide administration of energy efficiency, which municipal aggregators are authorized to undertake pursuant to Chapter 164, Section 134(b).

However, municipal aggregators, specifically the Cape Light Compact, face barriers to adopting and implementing enhancements like CVEO through its Energy Efficiency Plan. This is the result of a history of disregard by the Department of Public Utilities for the express authority granted to municipalities by the Massachusetts legislature in Chapter 164, Section 134(b) to develop and offer energy efficiency plans that go beyond and are more comprehensive than, or that cover additional subject areas than, the statewide utility plans. The need for this bill is centered on those barriers created by the DPU.

The intent of H.3360 is to affirm a municipal aggregator's ability to develop an Energy Efficiency Plan that includes all programs and core initiatives of the statewide Energy Efficiency Plan, but that also allows municipal aggregators to include cost-effective special offerings like CVEO for the Cape and Vineyard, or greater incentive levels for certain energy efficiency measures that reflect the unique needs of their communities.

The 21 Cape and Vineyard towns proposed a unique enhancement in 2018—CVEO—to serve low- and moderate-income customers, yet it is still under review by the DPU. Given our growing climate crisis, we should be applauding cities and towns that want to do more, not hamstringing them with endless DPU proceedings. The necessity for the Legislature, through H.3360, to provide direct and clear reaffirmation of the ability of municipal aggregators to do more than the minimum is the result of DPU's recalcitrance to use its existing authority to fully benefit the sector of our population that is most impacted by climate change and least positioned to independently act on it.

For additional information, included with this letter is the detailed response filed by the Cape Light Compact that addresses the specific questions raised by Chairman Barrett at the hearing.

APCC thanks the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy for its consideration of this important legislation and for the opportunity to provide comments. We respectfully ask the committee to move H.3360 forward with a favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc:	Sen. Julian Cyr	Rep. Kip Diggs
	Sen. Susan Moran	Rep. David Vieira
	Rep. Sarah Peake	Rep. Dylan Fernandes
	Rep. Timothy Whelan	Rep. Steven Xiarhos