



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

June 13, 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eliza McClennen
President

The Honorable Aaron Micklewicz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Steven Koppel
Vice President

Dear Chair Micklewicz:

Bob Ciolek
Treasurer

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod writes in strong support of Governor Baker's H-4802 \$200 million proposal for wastewater management initiatives on Cape Cod in account 1595-1005.

Jack Looney
Clerk

John Cumbler

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect, preserve, and restore Cape Cod's natural resources. APCC focuses our efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water, and wetland resources, preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible, planned growth and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

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The Governor's proposal provides support, through an appropriation to the Clean Water Trust, to enhance the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund and to provide critical principal forgiveness to loans for sewer connections and septic upgrades via the Barnstable County Community Septic Management Loan Program. Both initiatives are critical to maintain recent momentum at the municipal level funding projects that improve water quality.

With your critical support, the Legislature created the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund (the Fund). The Fund has been a great success and its existence has been directly responsible for the increase in municipal projects being authorized to proceed to construction. In addition to improving long-degraded water resources, these projects are good for the local economy and create well-paying construction jobs that then support other economic benefits for the region. Supplementing the Fund as proposed by the Governor will ensure that Cape towns can continue to rely on the Fund as an integral part of their financing plans.



In addition to supplementing the Fund, the Governor's proposal providing principal forgiveness for certain loans issued under the Barnstable County Community Septic Management Loan Program addresses the remaining unaddressed need holding back project implementation. The cost to the homeowner of septic upgrades and sewer connections is a major burden on many and is another factor making housing affordability a challenge. The County program recognizes the need to provide support to year-round residents at lower and median income levels and provides for a sliding scale of interest charges for residents up to 180% of Area Median Impact (AMI). The Governor's complimentary proposal provides a similarly scaled system of principal forgiveness that is directed to those most challenged by the housing affordability crisis confronting Cape Cod. This worthy proposal will not only help those homeowners most in need; it will also help build support for necessary municipal public works projects by mitigating their impact on the most vulnerable.

Thank you for considering our views and for your long-term partnership with the Cape as we work to solve water quality challenges to our environment and the economic engine that it drives.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb

CC: Rep. Sarah Peake
 Rep. Tim Whelan
 Rep. Kip Diggs
 Rep. David Vieira
 Rep. Dylan Fernandes
 Rep. Steven Xiahros