



April 12, 2024

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Executive Director

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The Honorable Rebecca L. Rausch, Senate Chair
The Honorable Daniel Cahill, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

RE: An Act authorizing the town of Orleans to adopt a pesticide reduction bylaw (H.4481)

Dear Chair Rausch and Chair Cahill:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) submits the following written testimony to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources regarding An Act authorizing the town of Orleans to adopt a pesticide reduction bylaw (H.4481).

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.

Exposure to many types of pesticides has been linked to adverse human health impacts, including asthma, liver and kidney function, developmental disabilities, birth defects, nerve and immune system damage, disruption of the endocrine system, and cancer. Pesticide impacts in the natural environment have proven to be equally problematic, causing harm to wildlife, including rare species and beneficial pollinators. Stormwater runoff containing pesticides can contaminate freshwater ponds and streams, coastal bays and estuaries, and water supplies—which is of particular concern across the Cape Cod region due to the sensitive nature of our water resources and the Cape's reliance on groundwater as the source of its drinking water.

APCC supports efforts by municipalities to reduce the use of pesticides on public and private property in order to protect the environment and human health. In pursuing that local objective, APCC also supports the ability of municipalities to adopt

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commonsense bylaws and regulations that provide practical and effective actions to reduce pesticide use and that promote responsible stewardship of the environment. We respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources give a favorable report to H.4481.

APCC thanks the committee chairs and members of the committee for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Julian Cyr
Sen. Susan Moran
Rep. Sarah Peake
Rep. Christopher Flanagan
Rep. Kip Diggs
Rep. David Vieira
Rep. Dylan Fernandes
Rep. Steven Xiarhos
Orleans Select Board