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The Honorable Karen E. Spilka  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Spilka,

The Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition thanks the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for the opportunity to express strong support for ***S.451/H.752 An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change (CAMP)*** filed by Senator Marc Pacheco and Representative Frank Smizik.

Our collective organizations represent diverse stakeholders with a common interest in protecting health, economy and environment of the Commonwealth. Many of our organizations have worked over the past decade to partner with the Legislature and the Patrick and Baker Administrations on public policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; we now turn our attention to climate adaptation, which is the strategic planning, projects and programs to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The Commonwealth needs a better integrated set of strategies, policies and measures to better protect its citizens from the increasingly frequent severe storms and disasters linked to changes in our atmosphere and to prepare our infrastructure, transportation networks, energy supply, coastal resources, weather warning systems and emergency management.

The Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report (September 2011) set the stage for developing a statewide, comprehensive, quantifiable adaptation plan that protects the health, welfare, and the nature of Massachusetts.

This bill would:

- Establish statewide climate adaptation management practices which take into account the natural, built and economic characteristics of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable areas and human populations
- Require documentation of the preparedness and vulnerabilities in the Commonwealth's emergency response, energy, transportation, communications, health and other systems

- Establish a regional grant program to provide financial assistance to regional planning agencies for the development and implementation of CAMP, including vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development
- Establish a coastal buyback program to acquire by voluntary purchase properties severely and repeatedly damaged by storms

Climate preparedness makes good economic sense; a study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that every dollar invested in the mitigation of storm-surge effects in coastal communities saves the American taxpayer four dollars in losses from natural hazards<sup>1</sup>. Another recent study in the journal *Nature* calculated that the number of people, poor families, elderly and total value of residential property that are most exposed to coastal hazards can be reduced by half if existing coastal habitats remain fully intact, rather than be developed<sup>2</sup>.

There is also a critical mass of support for the Commonwealth to take the lead on adaptation. Recently, over 275 people attended the March 25<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Resiliency joint public hearing of the Global Warming and Climate Change committees at the State House. In addition, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council convened a metro-mayors summit on May 13<sup>th</sup>. At these events stakeholders recommended better integration among federal, state, regional and local levels of government.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge you to report this bill out favorably.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition

*Mass Audubon; The Nature Conservancy Massachusetts; Environmental League of Massachusetts; Trust for Public Land; Conservation Law Foundation; Sierra Club Mass Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club; The Trustees of Reservations; Charles River Watershed Association; Mass Rivers Alliance; Boston Harbor Association; Association to Preserve Cape Cod; Great Marsh Coalition; Mass Association of Conservation Commissions; Mass Land Trust Coalition; Mass Association of Planning Directors; Metropolitan Area Planning Council; Mass Association of Regional Planning Agencies; Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security at U. Mass Boston; Cape & Islands Self Reliance Corporation; Climate Action Business Association; American Institute of Architects Massachusetts; Boston Society of Architects; Ceres; Urban Land Institute Boston/New England; Kleinfelder*

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<sup>1</sup> *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves; An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities, The MultiHazard Mitigation Council*

<sup>2</sup> *Coastal habitats shield people and property from sea-level rise and storms, 2013. Arkema, K., Guannel, G., Verutes, G., Wood, S.A., Guerry, A., Ruckelshaus, M., Kareiva, P., Lacayo, M., Silver, J.M., Nature Climate Change*