



May 1, 2017

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

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Sen. Anne M. Gobi, Senate Chairwoman
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 513
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Gailanne M. Cariddi, House Chairwoman
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 473F
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Support for The Public Lands Preservation Act, S.419/H.2108

Dear Chairwoman Gobi and Chairwoman Cariddi:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) expresses its support of An Act Protecting the Natural Resources of the Commonwealth (S.419, H.2108), also known as the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA), and urges the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to report the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization. Representing more than 5,000 members, APCC's mission is to promote policies and programs that protect and enhance the Cape's natural resources. APCC focuses its efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water and wetland resources, the preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible, planned growth, and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

Although Cape Cod is famed for its scenic vistas and iconic natural resource areas, efforts to preserve our natural habitats and open spaces have had difficulty keeping pace with the intense development that occurred in recent decades. Today, only about 13 percent of the Cape remains undeveloped and unprotected. Ensuring that the Cape's hard-earned land conservation achievements will not be eroded by future competing land use demands is a high environmental, economic and community character priority for the region.

That is why adoption of the PLPA is critically important to Cape Cod, as it is to the rest of Massachusetts. The PLPA would set in place a process for replacing Article 97 land proposed for disposition with land of comparable natural resource value, acreage and location. This bill will help maintain a no net loss of these constitutionally protected Article 97 lands, which are preserved for the benefit of the public and dedicated for use as conservation, parks, forests, watersheds and other natural resource protection purposes. These lands serve a vital role in protecting wildlife habitat, keeping our water and air clean, providing recreational opportunities, promoting tourism, bolstering the state's economy and improving the quality

482 Main Street | Dennis, MA 02638

Tel: 508-619-3185 | info@apcc.org | www.apcc.org

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of life of our citizens.

APCC respectfully requests the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to act swiftly in moving the PLPA forward through the legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

cc: Senator Julian Cyr
 Senator Viriato deMacedo
 Representative Dylan Fernandes
 Representative Timothy Whelan
 Representative William Crocker
 Representative David Vieira
 Representative Sarah Peake
 Representative Randy Hunt