



## Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

*protecting wetlands, open space and biological diversity through education and advocacy*

April 4, 2018

***Via Electronic Mail***

The Honorable Anne M. Gobi, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Wm. Smitty Pignatelli, House Chair  
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture  
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support for the 2018 Environmental Bond Bill: *H4318 – An Act promoting climate change adaptation, environmental and natural resource protection, and investment in recreational assets and opportunity*

Dear Chairwoman Gobi and Chairman Pignatelli:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Governor Baker's bill, *H4318 – An Act promoting climate change adaptation, environmental and natural resource protection, and investment in recreational assets and opportunity*. The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) supports H4318 (the Environmental Bond).

MACC is the non-profit association representing more than 3,000 conservation commission and other environmental professional members in 351 Towns and Cities across the Commonwealth. Our association provides educational resources and technical assistance to Massachusetts' conservation commissions, which are the municipal boards responsible for administering the state Wetlands Protection Act and municipal wetland bylaws and ordinances; conservation commissions are also responsible for managing municipally-owned conservation land. Our association protects Massachusetts' natural resources through our education and advocacy efforts.

Wetlands and open space are critical components of climate change resiliency because these areas can rapidly absorb, and then slowly release stormwater, mitigating flooding effects. As we saw in the March 2018 Nor'easter storms, our coastal towns were pummeled by the strong winds and high seas. Inland communities were also significantly impacted and these communities are still struggling to manage the tree damage from the storms. The succession of Nor'easters serve as a reminder of the important functions the Commonwealth's wetlands, forests, and other natural resources serve in providing storm damage prevention and flood control, two of the eight interests protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Environmental Bond bill is vital to improving our climate change resiliency.

MACC supports:

- Expanded funding of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) for programs to protect wetlands and open space.
- Expanded funding of river and wetland restoration programs.
- Funding for promulgating regulations related to Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, to improve climate change resiliency in coastal communities.
- Enhanced funding for water infrastructure and culvert replacements as part of storm damage prevention, flood control, and improving climate change resiliency projects.
- Expanded funding of Brownfield/remediation sites to revitalize communities (while minimizing development of green field sites), enhance proper management of contaminated soils during construction projects, and support upgrading remediation sites in climate-change vulnerable environments.
- Conserving, enhancing, and restoring natural resources to maintain clean water and air.

MACC is a member of the Commonwealth Conservation Council (CCC); we will submit additional comments to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture from the CCC.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to your Committee. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our office at (617) 489-3930.

Sincerely,

***Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions***



Dorothy A. McGlinicy, PG, LSP  
Executive Director