



Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

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

December 4, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Rebecca Tepper, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

RE: 30-Day Extension Request to the Public Comment Period on Proposed Regulations
301 CMR 52.00: Change in Use or Disposition of Article 97 Interests

Dear Secretary Tepper:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs on the proposed regulation updates, *301 CMR 52.00: Change in Use or Disposition of Article 97 Interests*. Due to the 30-day comment period falling between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and the importance of these regulations to conservation commissions who are responsible for stewardship of municipally owned Article 97 lands across the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) respectfully requests a 30-day extension for the comment period.

MACC is a statewide non-profit organization that supports more than 2,500 volunteer conservation commissioners in their mission to preserve wetlands and open space. Each of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts has a conservation commission responsible for administering the state Wetlands Protection Act and municipal wetland bylaws and ordinances, as well as managing municipally owned conservation land. Our association protects Massachusetts' natural resources through our education and advocacy efforts, and we have been doing this work since 1961.

Given holiday schedules and the need for conservation commissions to hold posted meetings to prepare and approve comments within this short comment period, we strongly urge the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs to provide a 30-day extension to the public comment period for 301 CMR 52.00.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. McGlinicy
Executive Director
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Amy M. Ball, PWS
MACC President

cc: Governor Maura Healey
Representative Ruth B. Balsler
Senator Jamie Eldridge
Stephanie Cooper, Undersecretary for the Environment
Kurt Gaertner, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Policy
Michael Gendron, Open Space Act Coordinator