



*Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
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*Working Together to Protect
the Landscapes You Love*

Chairman Michael J. Rodrigues
Chairman Jay R. Kaufman
The Joint Committee on Revenue
State House, Boston MA 02113

June 10, 2015

RE: An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue, H.2587/S.1459

Dear Chairman Rodrigues and Chairman Kaufman:

I respectfully request that you report favorably on *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* (H. 2587/S. 1459), which strengthens the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is a statewide coalition of approximately 130 land trusts and conservation organizations that work with cities and towns to protect the landscapes that make Massachusetts special, and to provide close and accessible outdoor recreational opportunities for every citizen.

Since being signed into law in late 2000, CPA has been adopted by 158 communities, representing 45% of the Commonwealth's cities and towns. Using CPA funds, municipalities have conserved more than 21,800 acres of open space, often working in partnership with local land trusts or other conservation organizations. In addition, CPA funds have created over 1,250 recreation projects, as well as many affordable housing units and historical preservation projects. Land trusts and other conservation organizations often raise private funds and partner with municipalities using CPA funds to protect important landscapes and recreational opportunities here in Massachusetts.

The ability of cities and towns to fund important CPA projects is threatened by the steep decline in funding from the statewide CPA Trust Fund. *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* will ensure that our cities and towns can continue to protect open space and historic properties, as well as expand recreation and community housing opportunities.

Please report favorably on *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* and help preserve Massachusetts for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mary Griffin, Executive Director