



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Inc.
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April 3, 2017

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

RE: An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue, H.2615/S.1504

Dear Chairman Brady and Chairman Kaufman:

I respectfully request that you report favorably on *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* (H.2615/S.1504), 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 signed into law in late 2000, 172 communities have adopted the CPA. Using CPA funds, municipalities have conserved more than 24,290 acres of open space, often working in partnership with local land trusts or other conservation organizations. Land trusts and other conservation organizations often raise private funds and collaborate with municipalities using CPA funds to protect important landscapes and recreational opportunities here in Massachusetts.

The decline in funding from the statewide CPA Trust Fund threatens the ability of cities and towns to fund important CPA projects. This legislation calls for an increase to the recording fees that would provide all current CPA communities a 50% first round distribution.

An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue will provide a long-term solution and 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,
Marylynn Gentry, Executive Director
