

## **Speaker Robert DeLeo's Remarks at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

- Thank you Representative Kulik. And thank you to the Community Preservation Coalition for having me here today.
- We have many proud traditions here in Massachusetts: A rich history of civic involvement and community engagement. Beautiful and bountiful natural resources from Boston to the Berkshires.
- And wherever you go in this state, you have the opportunity to stand amid historical greatness. Above all though, we are distinguished and guided by our industrious and innovative spirit.
- To me, the Community Preservation Act compliments each of these distinctive characteristics. That's why I'm so pleased to join you in celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the act.
- The CPA draws from the state's strengths - both past *and* present – and in doing so, it gives us a vehicle to turn challenging issues, troubled neighborhoods and untapped assets into economic drivers.
- When you look at the tough issues facing Massachusetts, there is a role for the CPA in helping to address each: energy, housing, job growth.
- I see the CPA a stimulant for the economy. Projects funded by the CPA help employ everyone from artisans to members of the building trade.
- They bolster industries like tourism, clean energy and the nonprofit sector. The initiatives boost real estate markets and attract families, businesses and investors to the any given area.
- Since 2001, 158 communities have adopted CPA legislation. That's almost half of the state's municipalities. And we have seen even more success and enthusiasm in the last year.
- I think all of us here today are encouraged by the increased participation, particularly from more urban areas like New Bedford, Arlington and Fall River.
- The CPA awards communities with many invaluable assets – affordable housing, parks and open spaces, museums and the protection of historic resources. In the end though, I believe the act provides common ground, places where citizens can come together and better our neighborhoods.
- So thank you all for your work in advancing that cause. You're dedication and enthusiasm is invaluable.