

THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 10, 2017

Representative Jay R. Kaufman, Chair  
Joint Committee on Revenue  
State House, Room 34  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael D. Brady, Chair  
Joint Committee on Revenue  
State House, Room 109E  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: *H.2615 - An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue***  
***S.1504 - An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue***

Dear Chairmen Kaufman and Brady,

We write today to respectfully request favorable action on *H.2615, An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue* that Representative Kevin Honan and I have jointly filed, and *S.1504* filed by Senator Cynthia Stone Creem. It is with great appreciation that we also thank you for having a hearing on such an important piece of legislation so early in the process.

For the last three fiscal years, the Legislature has approved short-term funding from the Commonwealth's budget surplus to bolster the Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPA). However, the CPA Trust Fund distribution fell to a record low of 20% last November due to the lack of surplus funds. It is for this reason that Representative Honan and I, along with 121 of our colleagues from both Chambers, with support from the CPA advocates across the state, have filed this bill: to advocate for a long term solution to remedy this ongoing problem.

The goal of this bill is to make a one-time adjustment in the Registry of Deeds recording fee, which is the funding source for the CPA Trust Fund, to a level that would allow for all current CPA communities to receive a 50% first round distribution from the statewide CPA Trust Fund. Since CPA was created in 2000, the fees have never been adjusted. As a result, this creates an urgency to implement a fix as soon as possible. The Trust Fund distribution will see a further dramatic decrease when 10 new CPA communities receive their first match in just over a year.

The CPA is a smart growth tool that helps communities around the Commonwealth preserve historic assets, create affordable housing, protect open space and farmland and develop recreational facilities. It also helps strengthen state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the state's workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth's historic and natural resources.

To date the program has been adopted by 172 communities, encompassing 49% of the Commonwealth's cities and towns, and accounts for 60% of the state's population. Over \$1.75 billion has been raised for community preservation statewide, helping fund over 9,000 projects that have been approved by local legislative bodies, creating over 4,200 affordable housing units with an additional 6,400 units being supported by this program. This

has preserved over 26,000 acres of open space, as well as allowing over 4,400 appropriations to make to historic preservation projects.

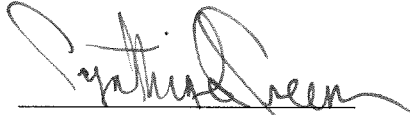
In order to continue to allow the CPA program to continue to be used as a smart growth and job creation tool for our communities around the Commonwealth, it is critical that we move quickly on this legislation. Without action, the State will not deliver on the promise made to our municipalities back when the Community Preservation Act was signed into law by Governor Cellucci on September 14, 2000.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen Kulik  
State Representative  
First Franklin District



Cynthia Stone Creem  
State Senator  
First Middlesex & Norfolk District




Kevin G. Honan  
State Representative  
Seventeenth Suffolk District



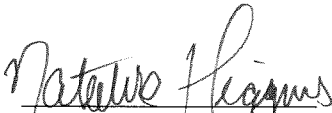
Jay D. Livingstone  
State Representative  
Eighth Suffolk District



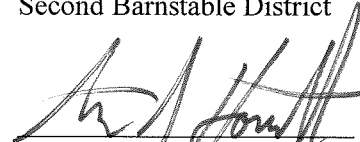
William Crocker  
State Representative  
Second Barnstable District



Chris Walsh  
State Representative  
Sixth Middlesex District



Natalie Higgins  
State Representative  
Fourth Worcester District



Steven S. Howitt  
State Representative  
Fourth Bristol District



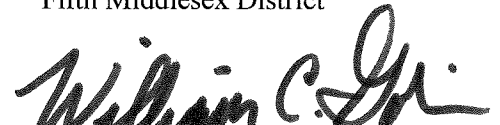
David P. Linsky  
State Representative  
Fifth Middlesex District



Carlos Gonzalez  
State Representative  
Tenth Hampden District



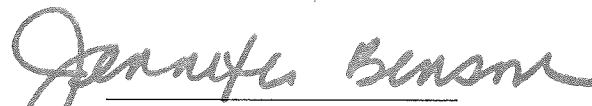
Denise Provost  
State Representative  
Twenty-Seventh Middlesex District



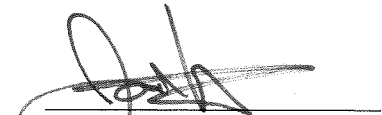
William C. Galvin  
State Representative  
Sixth Norfolk District



Denise C. Garlick  
State Representative  
Thirteenth Norfolk District



Jennifer E. Benson  
State Representative  
Thirty-Seventh Middlesex District



Josh S. Cutler  
State Representative  
Sixth Plymouth District




Anne M. Gobi  
State Senator  
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire  
& Middlesex District




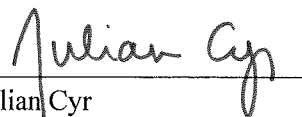
Jonathan L. Hecht  
State Representative  
Twenty-Ninth Middlesex District





John W. Scibak  
State Representative  
Second Hampshire District


  
Carole A. Fiola  
State Representative  
Sixth Bristol District

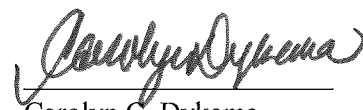
  
Aaron Vega  
State Representative  
Fifth Hampden District

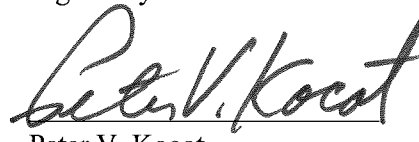
  
Julian Cyr  
State Senator  
Cape and Islands District

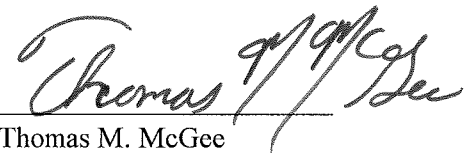
  
James Arciero  
State Representative  
Second Middlesex District


  
Angelo L. D'Emilia  
State Representative  
Eighth Plymouth District


  
Kate Hogan  
State Representative  
Third Middlesex District


  
Carolyn C. Dykema  
State Representative  
Eighth Middlesex District


  
Peter V. Kocot  
State Representative  
First Hampshire District

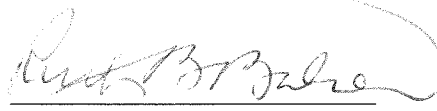
  
Thomas M. McGee  
State Senator  
Third Essex District


  
Smitty Pignatelli  
State Representative  
Fourth Berkshire District

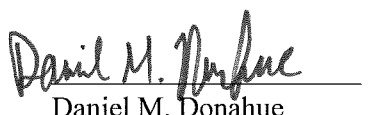
  
Adam G. Hinds  
State Senator  
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin  
& Hampden


  
Gailanne M. Cariddi  
State Representative  
First Berkshire District

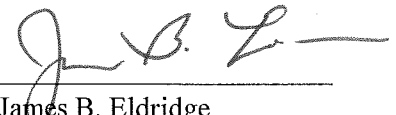
  
Tricia Farley-Bouvier  
State Representative  
Third Berkshire District

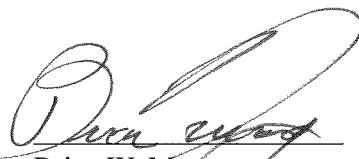
  
Ruth B. Balsler  
State Representative  
Twelfth Middlesex District

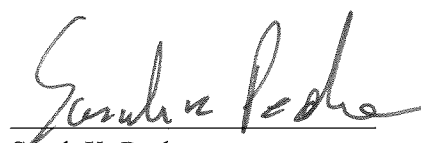
  
Elizabeth A. Malia  
State Representative  
Eleventh Suffolk District

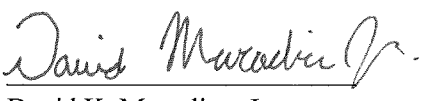
  
Daniel M. Donahue  
State Representative  
Sixteenth Worcester District

  
Barbara A. L'Italien  
State Senator  
Second Essex & Middlesex District

  
James B. Eldridge  
State Senator  
Middlesex & Worcester  
District

  
Brian W. Murray  
State Representative  
Tenth Worcester District

  
Sarah K. Peake  
State Representative  
Fourth Barnstable District

  
David K. Muradian, Jr.  
State Representative  
Ninth Worcester District

Carmine L. Gentile  
State Representative  
Thirteenth Middlesex District

Joan Meschino  
State Representative  
Third Plymouth District

John F. Keenan  
State Senator  
Norfolk & Plymouth District

Kenneth I. Gordon  
State Representative  
Twenty-First Middlesex District

James R. Miceli  
State Representative  
Nineteenth Middlesex District

Alice H. Peisch  
State Representative  
Fourteenth Norfolk District

Kathleen A. O'Connor Ives  
State Senator  
First Essex District

Leonard Mirra  
State Representative  
Second Essex District

James J. O'Day  
State Representative  
Fourteenth Worcester District

Marjorie C. Decker  
State Representative  
Twenty-Fifth Middlesex District

Sean Garballey  
State Representative  
Twenty-Third Middlesex District

Mike Connolly  
State Representative  
Twenty-Sixth Middlesex District

Christine P. Barber  
State Representative  
Thirty-Fourth Middlesex District

Harriette L. Chandler  
State Senator  
First Worcester District

James M. Cantwell  
State Representative  
Fourth Plymouth District

Patricia A. Haddad  
State Representative  
Fifth Bristol District

Louis L. Kafka  
State Representative  
Eighth Norfolk District

Paul J. Donato  
State Representative  
Thirty-Fifth Middlesex District

Thomas P. Walsh  
State Representative  
Twelfth Essex District

Jason M. Lewis  
State Senator  
Fifth Middlesex District

Eric P. Lesser  
State Senator  
First Hampden & Hampshire District

John H. Rogers  
State Representative  
Twelfth Norfolk District

Paul W. Mark  
State Representative  
Second Berkshire District

Sal N. DiDomenico  
State Senator  
Middlesex & Suffolk District



Daniel J. Hunt  
State Representative  
Thirteenth Suffolk District



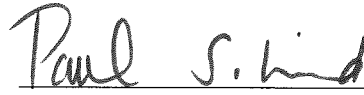
Adrian Madaro  
State Representative  
First Suffolk District



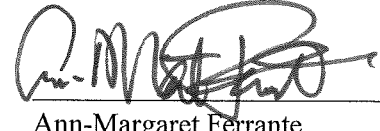
Steven Ultrino  
State Representative  
Thirty-Third Middlesex



Kay Khan  
State Representative  
Eleventh Middlesex District



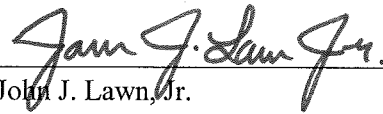
Paul A. Schmid, III  
State Representative  
Eighth Bristol District



Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
State Representative  
Fifth Essex District



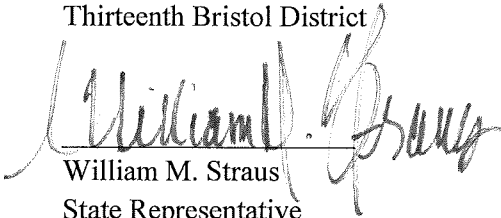
Antonio F. D. Cabral  
State Representative  
Thirteenth Bristol District



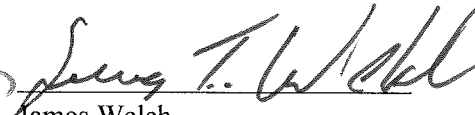
John J. Lawn, Jr.  
State Representative  
Tenth Middlesex District



Danielle W. Gregoire  
State Representative  
Fourth Middlesex District



William M. Straus  
State Representative  
Tenth Bristol District



James Welch  
State Senator  
Hampden District



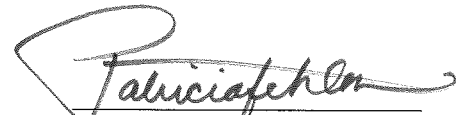
Timothy R. Whelan  
State Representative  
First Barnstable District



Todd M. Smola  
State Representative  
First Hampden District



Brian Ashe  
State Representative  
Second Hampden District



Patricia D. Jellen  
State Senator  
Second Middlesex District



Colleen M. Garry  
State Representative  
Thirty-Sixth Middlesex District



Harold P. Naughton, Jr.  
State Representative  
Twelfth Worcester District