

June 12, 2019

Honorable Karen Spilka
Senate President
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Robert DeLeo
Speaker of the House
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Spilka and Speaker DeLeo,

As Chief Executives of 101 municipalities that have adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA), we are writing to support the modernization of the statewide CPA Trust Fund. The Community Preservation Act is an invaluable program that helps our communities create jobs, generate tourism, and provide investments in our local economies through affordable housing development, construction and rehabilitation of parks and recreational facilities, and preservation of open space and historic assets.

However, the viability of CPA is threatened. As you know, locally raised funds are matched by the statewide CPA Trust Fund, which derives its revenue from recording fees at the Registries of Deeds. Yet this funding mechanism has never been updated since CPA was signed into law in 2000, severely diluting the state's CPA Trust Fund distribution. An ever-growing gap has developed between the approximately \$160 million invested annually by the 175 CPA cities and towns and the \$24 million contributed by the state. As a result, the CPA Trust Fund distribution that previously matched 100% of locally raised CPA funding has plummeted to an estimated 11% match today. The program is no longer the state-local partnership it was designed to be.

In the spirit of renewing this partnership, both the House and Senate included language to permanently increase funding for the statewide CPA Trust Fund in the fiscal year 2020 budget. The increase would raise the base percentage match from 11% to just under 30% annually for all 175 CPA communities in November of 2020. We thank Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and Senator Cynthia Stone Creem for advocating for this increase in their respective chambers and we look forward to the final approval vote of this legislation.

Additionally, the budget conference committee is considering a transfer of up to \$20 million from the state's FY2019 budget surplus to the Trust Fund in time for the November 2019 distribution, avoiding a record-low disbursement. Without this money, the statewide match will be an estimated 11%. This short-term solution for 2019, coupled with the long-term fix for 2020 and beyond, will ensure a viable, vibrant, and enduring CPA.

We add our names in support of this initiative and urge the Legislature and Governor Baker to support these efforts to ensure the viability of this highly successful program.

Signed,
(see signatories on following page)

CC:

Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem
Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
Honorable Cindy F. Friedman
Honorable Viriato M. deMacedo
His Excellency Charles Baker

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Honorable Denise C. Garlick
Honorable Todd M. Smola
Her Honor Karyn Polito



Richard Lafond
Town Manager
Abington



John Mangiaratti
Town Manager
Acton



Brian S. Noble
Town Administrator
Acushnet



Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
Amherst



Jeffrey Madison
Town Administrator
Aquinnah



Adam Chapdelaine
Town Manager
Arlington




Robert Pontbriand
Town Manager
Ayer



Thomas Caputo
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Belmont



John C. Curran
Town Manager
Billerica



Martin J. Walsh
Mayor
Boston



Thomas M. Guerino
Town Administrator
Bourne



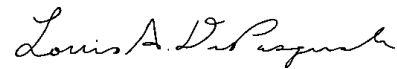
Susan Bak
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Boxborough



Joseph Sullivan
Mayor
Braintree



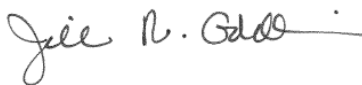
Michael Dutton
Town Manager
Bridgewater



Lou DePasquale
City Manager
Cambridge



Michael Milanoski
Town Administrator
Carver



Jill Goldsmith
Town Manager
Chatham



Paul E. Cohen
Town Manager
Chelmsford



Tom Ambrosino
City Manager
Chelsea



Timothy R. Carroll
Town Administrator
Chilmark



Kate Hodges
Acting Town Manager
Concord



John O'Rourke
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Conway



Shawn MacInnes
Town Administrator
Dartmouth



Diana M. Schindler
Interim Town Administrator
Deerfield



Elizabeth Sullivan
Town Administrator
Dennis



Mallory Aronstein
Town Administrator
Dighton



James A. Duggan
Town Manager
Dracut



Denise Menard
Town Manager
East Longmeadow



Nicole LaChapelle
Mayor
Easthampton



Connor Read
Town Administrator
Easton



Lisa O'Donnell
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Essex



Mark Reese
Town Administrator
Fairhaven



Sefatia Romeo Theken
Mayor
Gloucester



Angela Otis
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Goshen



Timothy P. McInerney
Town Administrator
Grafton



Matthew Streeter
Town Administrator
Granville



Mark Pruhenski
Town Manager
Great Barrington



David G. Nixon
Town Administrator
Hadley



Joseph Domelowicz
Town Manager
Hamilton



Michael McCue
Town Administrator
Hanson



Larry Ballantine
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Harwich



Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator
Holliston



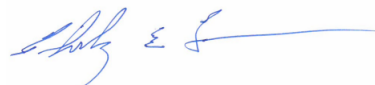
Alex Morse
Mayor
Holyoke



Norman Khumalo
Town Manager
Hopkinton



Ryan McLane
Town Administrator
Hubbardston



Philip E. Lemnios
Town Manager
Hull



Thomas J. Calter
Town Administrator
Kingston



Peter d'Errico
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Leverett



James Malloy
Town Manager
Lexington



Stephen J. Crane
Town Manager
Longmeadow



Gary Christenson
Mayor
Malden



Gregory T. Federspiel
Town Administrator
Manchester-by-the-Sea



Michael Maresco
Town Administrator
Marshfield



Michael J. Gagne
Town Administrator
Mattapoisett



Stephanie M. Burke
Mayor
Medford



Michael E. Boynton
Town Administrator
Medway



Andrew Sheehan
Town Administrator
Middleton



Michael J. Guzinski
Town Administrator
Millis



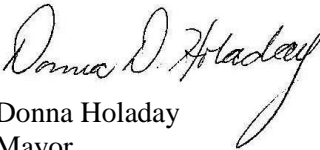
Antonio Barletta
Town Administrator
Nahant



C. Elizabeth Gibson
Town Manager
Nantucket



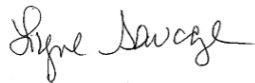
Jon Mitchell
Mayor
New Bedford



Donna Holaday
Mayor
Newburyport



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor
Newton



Lyne Savage
Interim Town Manager
North Andover



David Narkewicz
Mayor
Northampton



Adam Gaudette
Town Manager
Northbridge



Tony Mazzucco
General Manager
Norwood



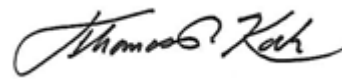
Edward Bettencourt
Mayor
Peabody



Edwin J. Thorne
Town Administrator
Pembroke



Linda Tyer
Mayor
Pittsfield



Tom Koch
Mayor
Quincy



Brian Howard
Town Manager
Randolph



Gerald Schwall
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Rehoboth



Deborah M. Eagan
Town Administrator
Rowley



Kim Driscoll
Mayor
Salem



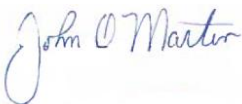
George Dunham
Town Manager
Sandwich



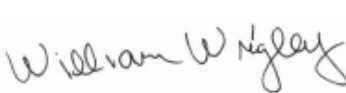
Richard M. Brown
Town Administrator
Somerset



Joseph Curtatone
Mayor
Somerville



John Martin
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Southampton



William Wrigley
Town Administrator
Stow



Jeffrey K. Bridges
Town Administrator
Sturbridge



Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Esq.
Town Manager
Sudbury



Sherry Patch
Town Administrator
Sunderland



Richard Montuori
Town Administrator
Tewksbury



Richard Reault
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Tyngsborough



Derek Brindisi
Town Manager
Upton



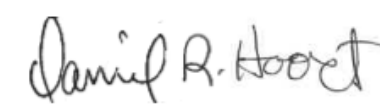
Jeannette A. McCarthy
Mayor
Waltham



Derek Sullivan
Town Administrator
Wareham



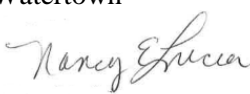
Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager
Watertown



Daniel Hoort
Town Administrator
Wellfleet



John Petrin
Interim Town Administrator
Wenham



Nancy Lucier
Interim Town Administrator
West Boylston




David L. Gagne,
Town Administrator
West Bridgewater



Angus Jennings
Town Manager
West Newbury



William Reichelt
Mayor
West Springfield



Jennifer Rand
Town Administrator
West Tisbury



Brian Sullivan
Mayor
Westfield



Jodi Ross
Town Manager
Westford



Leon Gaumond, Jr.
Town Manager
Weston



Brian Domina
Town Administrator
Whately



Susan C. Bunnell
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Wilbraham