



Are you on board?

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April 3, 2018

The Honorable Anne Gobi
The Honorable Smitty Pignatelli
Co Chairs, The Joint Committee on The Environment,
Natural Resources and Agriculture
24 Beacon Street, Room 513
The State House
Boston, MA 02113

Re: Environmental Bond Bill

Dear Chairwoman Gobi and Chairman Pignatelli:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the important priorities for consideration in the Commonwealth's next Environmental Bond Bill.

Governor Baker's Environmental Bond Bill is an important step in supporting the Commonwealth's efforts to address the impacts of climate change and investing in our environmental and recreational assets. Already a national leader, the \$1.4 billion bond bill positions Massachusetts to remain proactive in its effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change while investing in our future by promoting, preserving and protecting our natural, cultural and recreational assets for the benefit of all of our citizens.

The recent coastal flooding and related intense snow storms have highlighted the urgent need to implement climate solutions. The effects of climate change are not limited to the Commonwealth's coastal cities. Every municipality must be prepared to deal with increasingly severe weather and its impacts. We hope that you will join The Baker Administration in advancing legislation that incorporates much-needed funding to explore nature-based resiliency solutions, encourage additional planning and vulnerability studies, and provides more adequate resources to communities to reduce their climate risks.

Equally important, the funds allocated to environmental protection and recreational resource stewardship, reinforce the critical role that our environment and more specifically our public parks, forests, beaches, playgrounds, trails and watersheds play in our communities. There is a clear and critical connection between stewarding our natural resources for public use and preparing for climate change and we applaud the Administration for its thoughtful integration of these two priorities.

As you may know, Boston Harbor Now works in close partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has a significant amount of property, parks, beaches, islands and parkways that now sit within the newly projected 2030 flood areas around Boston Harbor. DCR and its public amenities, notably the Boston Harbor Islands, will benefit from the investments envisioned in this legislation. We hope that other capital improvements contained in this bill, such as continuation of funding for the Morrissey Boulevard redesign project can and should serve as future models of resilient design along our waterfront and for our DCR Parkway transportation infrastructure.

This bill sends the important message that we must act now and provides the resources to do so. Boston Harbor Now welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with The Massachusetts Legislature, The Baker Administration and our partners to help advance the principles and priorities embodied in this bill. We strongly urge your support in passing this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Abbott', with a stylized, flowing script.

Katherine F. Abbott
President & CEO
Boston Harbor Now