

July 12, 2016

RE: FY2017 Green Budget Coalition Veto Override Requests

Speaker Robert DeLeo

CC: House Ways & Means Chairman Dempsey

Joint Committee Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Committee House Chairman Schmid

Dear Speaker DeLeo:

Thank you for your leadership and the hard work of the House to produce the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Unfortunately, the Governor's vetoes would mean substantial cuts to two areas that have been particularly hard hit in recent years -- environmental protection and state parks. The 75+ undersigned organizations comprising the Green Budget Coalition urge the legislature to override vetoes of funding for critical environmental agencies and programs.

With reduced budgets and diminished staffing levels, it is nearly impossible for the remaining staff at the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Recreation to adequately fulfill the agencies' broad responsibilities. Fighting climate change, ensuring clean water, and providing safe, high-quality outdoor experiences for residents and visitors are all important responsibilities which require resources. The constrained ability of these agencies represents a setback for public health, quality of life, and our economy.

We continue to urge that funding for our environmental agencies be restored to 1% of the state budget. Currently, funding to protect our environment is half a penny of every operating dollar. And, while state spending continues to increase overall, funding for environmental programs is on the decline. Overall for environmental agencies (EEA, DEP, DCR, DFG, DAR), the FY17 Conference Committee report represented a 5% cut compared to FY16 funding levels. The Governor's vetoes would mean a further reduction of \$10M for environmental agencies. **We ask that the House override the following vetoes to prevent further cuts to these important programs.**

Item	Department	Description	Amount	Vetoed Amount	Remaining
2000-0100	EEA	Environmental Affairs Administration	\$7,672,881	\$329,471	\$7,343,410
2030-1000	EEA	Environmental Law Enforcement	\$10,547,986	\$426,714	\$10,121,272
2200-0100	DEP	Environmental Protection Administration	\$25,037,437	\$1,500,000	\$23,537,437
2511-0100	DAR	Agricultural Resources	\$5,629,445	\$150,000	\$5,479,445
2800-0401	DCR	Stormwater Management	\$465,854	\$100,000	\$365,854
2810-0100	DCR	State Parks and Recreation	\$41,473,430	\$5,320,338	\$36,153,092

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Erica Mattison at the Environmental League of Massachusetts (office: 617-742-2553, cell: 617-953-7175) or emattison@environmentalleague.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Green Budget Coalition

Environmental League of Massachusetts
American Farmland Trust
Appalachian Mountain Club
Arborway Coalition
Association to Preserve Cape Cod
Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)
Berkshire Grown
Boston Cyclists Union
Boston Harbor Now
Boston Park Advocates
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
Buzzards Bay Coalition
Charles River Conservancy
Charles River Watershed Association
Clean Water Action
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Conservation Law Foundation
East Quabbin Land Trust
Emerald Necklace Conservancy
Environment Massachusetts
Environmental Business Council
Esplanade Association
Essex County Greenbelt Association
Franklin Land Trust
Franklin Park Coalition
Friends of Pontoosuc Lake
Friends of the Blue Hills
Friends of Upton State Forest
Green Newton
Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)
Hoosic River Watershed Association
Ipswich River Watershed Association
Kestrel Land Trust
Lakes and Ponds of Western Massachusetts
LivableStreets Alliance
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Mass Audubon
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations
Massachusetts Farm to School
Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network
Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters
Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists
Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network (MassPLAN)
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition
Merrimack River Watershed Council
Millers River Watershed Council
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
Mystic River Watershed Association
Nashua River Watershed Association
Neponset River Watershed Association
New England Mountain Bike Association
New England Wild Flower Society
North and South Rivers Watershed Association
OARS - For the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers
Parker River Clean Water Association
Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition
Sheffield Land Trust
Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance
Sudbury Valley Trustees
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Trustees of Reservations
Toxics Action Center Campaigns
Trout Unlimited - Greater Boston Chapter
US Green Building Council - Massachusetts Chapter
WalkBoston
Western Massachusetts Public Lands Alliance
Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation