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July 15, 2025

Sen. Rebecca L. Rausch, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
State House, Room 215
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Christine Barber, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

via email: jointcommittee.environment@malegislature.gov

RE: In support of H.901 and S.597, An Act providing nature for all

Dear Chair Rausch, Chair Barber, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, I am pleased to submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 597 and House Bill 901. The Committee held a hearing on the bill on July 1, 2025.

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) is a non-profit association that works to advance land conservation in Massachusetts by supporting and strengthening over 140 conservation land trusts that work to preserve vital natural resources across the Commonwealth. In addition to stewarding thousands of acres of their own land across Massachusetts, land trusts leverage their deep connections with communities and landowners to assist municipalities and state agencies to conserve significant open space.

H.901 and S.597, *An Act Providing Nature for All*, would create a permanent Nature for All Fund for the purposes of acquisition, restoration or improvement of land to create parks and trails; protect forests, farms, wildlife habitat, and water resources; and advance climate resiliency and environmental justice goals. Setting aside just a portion of the revenue generated from the sales tax on sporting goods and recreational vehicles would enable dedication of as much as \$100 million every year for these purposes.

Historically, state investment in the conserving new parks, farms and conservation land has varied year to year, with only about \$25 million in state bond funding appropriated for these purposes in recent years. The added and sustained level of investment made possible by newly dedicating this source of state funding is

essential to meet the Commonwealth's Clean Energy and Climate Plan goal of conserving 40% of the state's natural and working lands by 2050 – and to secure all the other benefits of conserving and restoring natural lands, including drinking water protection, food security, biodiversity preservation, and equitable access to healthy outdoor recreation.

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition strongly urges you to report H.901/S.597 *An Act providing nature for all* favorably out of committee. If I can provide additional information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at robb@massland.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robb Johnson
Executive Director, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

partition by sale where the fair market proceeds are distributed proportionately amongst the heirs/co-tenants.

MLTC urges a favorable committee report on S. 1239/H.1964 *An Act relative to uniform partition of heirs' property*. If I can provide additional information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at robb@massland.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robb Johnson
Executive Director, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition