

Eastham Conservation Commission

555 Old Orchard Road
Eastham, MA 02642



508-240-5971
Fax 508-240-6687

March 22, 2016

Commissioner Martin Suuberg
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Executive Order 562 regulations review: wetlands protection

Dear Commissioner Suuberg:

On behalf of the Eastham Conservation Commission, represented by signatories of this letter, we wish to express our strong concern with respect to the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 562. Cape Cod's natural lands provide essential recreational, scenic, historical, and productive value for our communities and friends. Each town represents a unique convergence of natural environments including beaches, marshes, woodlands, ponds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Our mission, therefore, is to effectively protect and manage these natural resources with the future of the Cape in mind.

Our Commissions are committed to ensuring that state regulations and local town by-laws are as equitable, effective and efficient as possible to promote a high quality of life on Cape Cod and promote effective land stewardship. Periodic regulatory reviews have refined not only the governance of the Commonwealth and local leadership but also provided clear direction for our environmental policies and responsibilities. With the success of our state and local regulations, both Massachusetts and Cape Cod have secured a strong position of leadership in the advancement of environmental science and policy.

We believe it would be unwarranted for DEP to change the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations as these policies appropriately balance the needs of development and improvement for private and public initiatives with the protection of wetlands and the environmental services they provide. In closing, while we support regulatory review, our commissions feel strongly that such a review requires leadership that strengthens, rather than weakens, our regulatory framework.

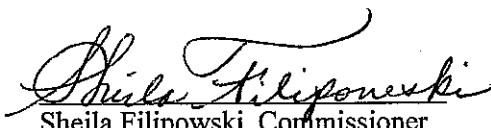
Respectfully,

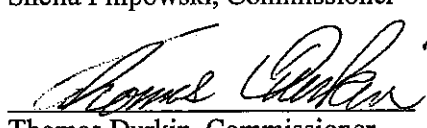
Eastham Conservation Commission


Michael Harnett, Chair


Steven LaBranche, Commissioner


James Baughman, Commissioner


Sheila Filipowski, Commissioner


Thomas Durkin, Commissioner