

3225 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 226
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

(508) 362-3828 • Fax (508) 362-3136 • www.capecodcommission.org

November 10, 2025

Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
24 Beacon Street
State House Room 215
Boston, MA 02133

Via email: JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov

Re: Bills H.995 Orleans Pesticide Reduction HRP and H.4191 Wellfleet Pesticide Reduction HRP

Dear Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the home rule petitions of two Cape Cod communities to reduce pesticide use. These Acts will enable Orleans and Wellfleet to focus on prevention, soil health, and less toxic alternatives to pesticide use in their communities.

The Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning agency for Barnstable County. The Commission's mission is to protect the unique values and quality of life on Cape Cod by coordinating a balanced relationship between environmental protection and economic progress.

Cape Cod's highly permeable soils, which readily provide for stormwater recharge of groundwater, are also conduits for carrying pesticides and other pollutants into the Cape Cod Sole Source Aquifer. In addition, the region supports over a third of the Commonwealth's rare species, which may be vulnerable to the impacts of pesticides in the environment. To the extent permitted under current state law, the Commission's technical guidance discourages the use of pesticides and fertilizers in order to protect the region's drinking water supplies and the biodiversity that Cape Cod natural habitats support. The Commission applauds the above referenced local efforts to control pesticide use and protect human health and the environment.

With provisions to allow exceptions during human health emergencies or for ecological restoration, Bills H.995 and H.4191 are crafted to provide flexibility and responsiveness when circumstances require it. I urge you to support these home rule petitions that allow responsible local control of pesticide use.

Sincerely,

Kristy Senatori
Executive Director

