

November 10, 2025

Senator Becca Rausch, Senate Chair
Representative Christine Barber, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House Room 215
Boston, MA 02133
JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov

RE: H.995 Orleans Pesticide HRP - Pesticides Reduction in Orleans

Dear Senator Rausch and Representative Barber

The Orleans Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee strongly supports the Select Board's goal of limiting pesticide use in the Town of Orleans. We are concerned about the effects of pesticides, including herbicides and rodenticides, on human health, local wildlife, native plant species, and our marine and freshwater quality. Pesticides can travel via surface runoff or through groundwater into estuaries, bays and ponds, and can have detrimental effects on our marine and freshwater ecology. Protection of water quality in our sensitive aquatic habitats is essential to our health, recreation and to the local economy in Orleans.

Whatever the outcome of the H.995, an Act authorizing the town of Orleans to adopt a pesticide reduction bylaw, we strongly encourage the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to engage in a discussion of how to reduce pesticide use in Orleans. The MFWQC looks forward to working with and assisting the Town of Orleans in that effort.

Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee
Town of Orleans

Richard Levy, Chair
Carolyn Auty
Carol Etzold
Edmund Hafner
Valerie May
Robert Mullin

Cc: Michael Herman