



August 31, 2022

Mr. Michael Herman
Orleans Select Board
Town Hall
Orleans, MA 02653

Dear Mr. Herman:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod supports Orleans' efforts to eliminate the impacts of fertilizers on water resources.

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect, preserve, and restore Cape Cod's natural resources. APCC focuses our efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water, wetland resources, preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible planned growth and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

Fertilizer use on turf and for ornamental plantings is an unnecessary choice that results in increased algal growth in freshwater and saltwater resources. The impact of fertilizer use, in combination with inadequately treated wastewater and stormwater, is obvious and well documented. While the elimination of fertilizer loads has to come in combination with advanced wastewater management in order to achieve federal and state water quality standards, the elimination of fertilizer loads is the most cost effective and rapidly implemented method of nutrient reduction available.

APCC recognizes the complexities associated with local bylaws controlling fertilizer use. We also recognize that the best way to manage fertilizers is for it to be done regionally. That said, it will take several towns standing up for better and more effective control of fertilizers to achieve the consensus needed to establish protective standards and practices. Orleans' moving forward is a necessary first step for Cape Cod and we urge approval of the Home Rule petition this Fall.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gottlieb