



September 9, 2022

Town of Orleans Select Board
19 School Road
Orleans, MA 02653

RE: Warrant Article to Authorize a Special Act to Prohibit the Application of Fertilizer in Orleans

Dear Orleans Select Board:

The Orleans Pond Coalition (OPC) strongly supports the goal of limiting fertilizer use. This is consistent with OPC's mission to protect our shared watersheds, estuaries, ponds and lakes. The Select Board has voted unanimously to put a warrant article before town meeting this fall to authorize a home rule petition for a special act to prohibit the application of fertilizer in Orleans. OPC **supports** the warrant article as a means to reduce the adverse effects that nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer have on our ponds, lakes and estuaries.

As town approval of the warrant article is only one step towards achieving cleaner, healthier waterways, we also urge the town to immediately strengthen current fertilizer bylaws, more actively enforce these restrictions, and actively work with the community to devise effective education and awareness efforts about the negative impacts that fertilizer use has on our critical water resources.

Fertilizer use is second only to wastewater in causing negative impacts to our water resources. It is our belief that bringing about behavioral change with regards to fertilizer use can have an immediate and measurable impact on the health of our waterways. OPC looks forward to continuing to work with the town as a partner on these efforts.

Sincerely,

Orleans Pond Coalition Board