

Protect our Waters - Vote Yes on Article 32 Orleans Special Town Meeting 6 pm October 17, 2022

A Home Rule Petition prohibiting the application of fertilizer except growing fruits & vegetables

Water is what brings people here and makes us want to stay in this special place of ours. Water is our most valuable environmental resource and economic asset. It directly or indirectly affects every resident, property owner, visitor, and business in Orleans. Orleans has 63 ponds/lakes and 50+ miles of coastline. Water is our lifeblood, and it is our responsibility to keep it healthy and protect what we love.

The science is proven and irrefutable that introducing excessive nitrogen and phosphorus pollutes fresh and salt water bodies including our aquifer. Fertilizer is the second biggest contributor polluting our waters. When applied, all nutrients are not absorbed by vegetation, excess nutrients run off our property onto other people's properties from irrigation and storms until it reaches the nearest body of water. It also permeates through our sandy soils and travels an estimated 1 foot per day to our groundwater.

As individuals, we can make the biggest immediate impact if we stop using fertilizer. It saves us money, it costs taxpayers and the town nothing (\$0), it could even increase our Tax credits, and we can start now.

A Home Rule Petition is a request (petition) from a city/town to the State Legislature. It asks to let the Town of Orleans have the power to make its own decision to prohibit the application of fertilizer, a right the State took away in 2014.

Protecting our waters and the environment has had a long history of support in Orleans and Cape Cod. Many people and organizations have worked very hard and made significant efforts over the last several decades to move this issue forward.

Doing nothing will change nothing, and our waters will continue to deteriorate.

It is time we make the hard decisions to act on solutions that protect our environment, economy, and community.

Our Waters need your support, as we are all stewards of our environment.

Please vote Yes for article 32 at Town Meeting

For update information, please visit:

<https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/1109/Fertilizer-Home-Rule-Petition-2022>

(Please see reverse side)



Fertilizer Home Rule Petition 2022 |
Orleans, MA
www.town.orleans.ma.us

Protect our Waters - Vote Yes on Article 32 Organizations Voted/Agreed Support to Date

Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) – “Fertilizer use on turf and for ornamental plantings is an unnecessary choice that results in increased algae growth in freshwater and saltwater resources... Orleans’ moving forward is a necessary first step for Cape Cod and we urge approval of the Home Rule petition this Fall.”

Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates – “... despite efforts at community education to reduce the use of fertilizers, their use has only grown over time; ... the Assembly of Delegates, by a vote representing a majority of the population of Barnstable County, supports the proposed Home Rule petition by the Town of Orleans.”

Cape Cod Commission – supports Orleans Fertilizer Home Rule Petition

Protect our Cape Cod Aquifer (POCCA) – “Anyone with property should get on board with this mission because having healthy surrounding waters is more than a joy like swimming, it is a necessity like drinking.”

Rich Delaney – “... the protection and sustainable management of our fresh and marine water resources is critical to our community's health and economic wellbeing. This requires strong action by government, businesses, and every individual.”

Orleans Agricultural Advisory Committee - unanimous vote to support

Orleans Board of Health - 4-0-1 vote to support

Orleans Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners - unanimous vote to support

Orleans Conservation Commission – “.. to support and encourage the Select Board to move forward in putting together the specifics of the petition and have this on the warrant for fall town meeting.”

Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee - unanimous vote to support

Orleans Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee – “Fertilizer has the second most significant negative impact, exceeded only by wastewater, in causing pollution of our groundwater, ponds, lakes, estuaries, marshes, streams and rivers... We applaud the Select Board in its efforts to continue to protect our waters and urge the public to join in these efforts.”

Orleans Pond Coalition (OPC) – “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.”

Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee – “So many of the things people love to do in Orleans - swimming, surfing, sailing, kayaking, and other activities - depend upon clean and healthy waters. It is incumbent on all of us to do everything we can to keep those waters safe.”

Orleans Shellfish and Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee - 6-0-1 vote to support

The Select Board voted unanimously on June 15 to act in addressing clean & healthy waters in Orleans, protecting our environment, wildlife, residents, visitors, pets, economy and property values by supporting the preparation of a Home Rule Petition.