April 10, 2019

The Honorable Anne M. Gobi, Senate Chair
The Honorable Smitty Pignatelli, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
State House
Boston, MA 02133


Dear Chair Gobi and Chair Pignatelli:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes to you in strong support of An Act Reducing Plastic Bag Pollution (S.462/H.771) and urges the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to act quickly in reporting this bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Founded in 1968, APCC is Cape Cod’s leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization. APCC works for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that preserve, protect and enhance Cape Cod’s natural resources and quality of life.

An Act Reducing Plastic Bag Pollution would help address the mounting environmental issues associated with the proliferation of single-use plastic bags on Cape Cod and across Massachusetts. Plastic bags account for a significant percentage of the Commonwealth’s waste stream. The countless bags not disposed of properly inevitably end up littering roadsides, clogging storm drains and creating a general blight on our landscape.

As a coastal state, Massachusetts must bear some of the responsibility for the estimated 100,000 sea turtle and other marine animal deaths each year caused by cast aside single-use plastic bags that are mistaken for food and ingested.

With more environmentally compatible alternatives readily available, such as reusable shopping bags, the time is right for this bill to be adopted into law. Many cities and towns across the state have already adopted their own plastic bag bans, with more proposals up for consideration at town meetings this spring. Passage of S.462/H.771 would create a unified state law that addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution while at the same time establishing a more fair and predictable rule for businesses.

APCC therefore asks for your support of S.462/H.771 and requests that you work with fellow members of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and...
Agriculture to give this bill a favorable report and allow it to proceed through the legislative process.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

Don Keeran
Assistant Director

cc: Sen. James Eldridge
    Rep. Lori Ehrlich
    Sen. Julian Cyr
    Sen. Viriato deMacedo
    Rep. Sarah Peake
    Rep. Timothy Whelan
    Rep. William Crocker
    Rep. David Vieira
    Rep. Dylan Fernandes
    Rep. Randy Hunt