



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

June 18, 2019

Senator Adam G. Hinds
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue
State House, Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Mark J. Cusack
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue
State House, Room 34
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Hinds, Chairman Cusack and honorable Members of the Committee:

I write to you today in strong support of the modernization of the statewide Community Preservation Act (CPA) Trust Fund. The CPA is an invaluable program for municipalities across the Commonwealth. CPA funding helps municipalities invest in the creation of affordable housing projects and the preservation of open space and historical sites.

I would like to applaud the House and Senate for their commitment to CPA through including vital language in both budgets to permanently increase the funding for the statewide CPA Trust Fund. If included in the final FY20 budget, this funding would more than double the base percentage match for all CPA communities. At the same time, the budget conference committee is considering a transfer of between \$10 and \$20 million from the state's budget surplus Trust Fund, which will also help reverse years of diminishing state matches. I thank Chairman Michlewitz and Senator Stone-Creem for recognizing the need to address the persistent gap in CPA investment. CPA Trust Fund distribution originally matched 100% of locally raised funding, and now is down to nearly 11% if these updates are not finalized.

As you know, continually updating the CPA funding mechanism is vital to the success of CPA. Prior to House and Senate budget deliberations, the funding mechanism had not been updated, remaining the same as when it was signed into law in 2000. By ensuring CPA legislation makes the finalized budget and considering stand-alone CPA legislation such as this you can restore the state-local partnership it was designed to be.

I respectfully request your support of reforming the way the Community Preservation Act is funded and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or you may contact Yissel Guerrero or Alyssa Ring in the Office of Intergovernmental Relations at (617) 635-3817.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston

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