



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

March 16, 2021

Senator Edward J. Markey  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Elizabeth Warren  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Bill Keating  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Nantucket Sound Protection**

Dear Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congressman Keating:

As representatives of Cape Cod, we support federal legislation to secure permanent protection for Nantucket Sound. The Sound is a nationally significant and regionally critical resource vital to the local economy. It attracts millions of visitors to Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket each year and supports commercial fishing, aviation, marine transportation, and other marine trades.

Permanent protection would recognize Nantucket Sound's economic contribution, rich history, and environmental value, further promote tourism to benefit the regional economy, and improve water quality and coastal resilience. We fully support protection for the historic, environmental, and economic resources of Nantucket Sound while allowing for recreational and commercial fishing activities and other environmentally and economically sustainable uses of the marine environment.

We urge you to enact legislation to designate Nantucket Sound as a National Historic Landmark to formally recognize the Sound's rich maritime and tribal history. Nantucket Sound should be defined as the water body located between the mean low-water line that lies between the southern shore of Cape Cod, between Monomoy and Mashpee, and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

To further protect this important body of water, the legislation should also prohibit federal approval of any industrial development inconsistent with existing safeguards under state law and address the effects of climate change and threats to water quality, coastal erosion, and habitat degradation. Enactment of the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act will provide long-term protection for the entirety of Nantucket Sound.

This legislation should not interfere with development of electric transmission facilities that exclusively serve or support upland areas or offshore wind generation facilities located outside of

Nantucket Sound. Finally, this legislation should require no additional regulation or management of fishing activities.

Thank you for your interest and prompt attention to this important preservation effort.

Sincerely,



**Sarah K. Peake**  
State Representative  
*4<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District*



**Timothy R. Whelan**  
State Representative  
*1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District*



**David T. Vieira**  
State Representative  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable District*



**Steven G. Xiarhos**  
State Representative  
*5<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District*



**Kip A. Diggs**  
State Representative  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Barnstable District*