Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound American Bird Conservancy American Lighthouse Foundation Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing (BARS) **Barnstable Clean Water Coalition Barnstable Historical Commission Barnstable Land Trust Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission Bay State Wind Black Dog Tall Ships Cahoon Museum of American Art Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Cape Cod Life Publications Cape Cod Marine Trades Association Cape Cod Maritime Museum Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club Cape Wildlife Center Catboat Charters Cetacean Society International Crosby Yacht Yard Dennis Historical Commission** Earth Island Institute/ International Marine Mammal Project **Edgartown Historic District Commission** Figawi Charities, Inc. Freedom Cruise Line Inc. **Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association Greater Hyannis Chamber of Commerce Greater Hyannis Civic Association** Harwich Chamber of Commerce Harwich Conservation Trust Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit Hyannis Business Improvement District **Hyannis Historical Society** Hyannis Marina **Hyannis Port Civic Association Hy-Line Cruises** Island Queen/Island Commuter Corporation Littoral Power Systems Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative

Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen Massachusetts Competitive Partnership Nantucket Anglers' Club Nantucket Historic District Commission Nantucket Historical Association Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) **National Congress of American Indians Orenda Wildlife Land Trust Osterville Anglers' Club Osterville Historical Museum Oyster Harbors Marine Passenger Vessel Association Pegasus Foundation** Port of New Bedford Preservation Massachusetts Save Popponesset Bay South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association The Chappiquiddic Tribe The Cultural Landscape Foundation Town of Barnstable **Town of Dennis Town of Edgartown Town of Harwich** Town of Mashpee Town of Nantucket **Town of Oak Bluffs Town of Tisbury Town of Yarmouth** United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) United States Lighthouse Society Vineyard Conservation Society Vineyard Wind Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce **Yarmouth Historical Commission**

May 26, 2022

Dear Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congressman Keating:

We the undersigned write to you to urge you to introduce and support federal legislation to secure permanent protection for Nantucket Sound. Nantucket Sound is a critical resource to the economy of the Cape and Islands. Its historic, environmental, wildlife, and cultural values support commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, marine transportation, aviation, marine trades, and other businesses and industries that are vital to the region.

Permanent protection would preserve Nantucket Sound's rich cultural and tribal heritage and the historic features of its maritime history, including the role of our fishing industry. It would maintain the Sound's unique environment with respect to fish, marine mammals, and birds, and it would ensure the future environmental health of Nantucket Sound. The area is a recognized habitat for many state and federally protected species, including roseate terns, piping plovers, sea turtles, right whales, and grey seals. Protection would also promote tourism and benefit the regional economy of the Cape and Islands. As historic preservation advocates, environmentalists, commercial fishermen, tribes, renewable energy developers, businesses, chambers of commerce, municipalities, and others, we fully embrace this important preservation goal.

Nantucket Sound, Cape Cod, and the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket form an integral part of the maritime history of this country. The adjacent land areas are home to numerous historic properties, including the National Historic Landmarks of Nantucket Island, the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port, and Wesleyan Grove in Oak Bluffs. This unique ecosystem is home to many different species of wildlife, including federally protected birds, and several types of seals, porpoises, turtles, and whales. The Sound supports a fishing industry that is of historic significance and continuing economic importance. It attracts millions of visitors each year that drive our local tourist economy. Nantucket Sound has sacred value to the Native American people of the region and, as such, has been designated a traditional cultural property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the <u>only</u> ocean-based traditional cultural property that has been recognized by the Keeper of the National Register.

We fully support protection for the historic, environmental, cultural, and tribal resources of Nantucket Sound while allowing for continued commercial and recreational fishing activities and other ecologically and economically sustainable uses of the marine environment. These include the siting of electrical transmission infrastructure from responsibly sited offshore wind projects and the development of hydrokinetic power in the Sound. We urge you to:

- designate the Sound as a National Historic Landmark to recognize this unique cultural, tribal, environmental, and maritime history.
- provide significant environmental protections to address the many threats facing Nantucket Sound, such as diminished water quality, coastal erosion, habitat degradation and other climate change effects.
- ensure that the protections that exist under state law for the waters that extend three miles from shore are extended to the federal waters located in the center of Nantucket Sound with respect to energy generation, while making certain that no regulatory or management authority of commercial or recreational fishing activities is added.
- ensure that the installation of transmission infrastructure used to connect offshore wind generation facilities, whose turbine arrays are located more than 10 miles from an inhabited area, or in upland

locations, to the mainland grid, and the development of responsibly sited hydrokinetic power in Nantucket Sound, are not prohibited or otherwise impacted.

Such a bill would be precedent-setting legislation that achieves protection of the many public interest values of an entire marine ecosystem, ensures its future environmental health, and does so without imposing additional cost or management responsibilities on government or new regulatory requirements on businesses or the public. We appreciate your prompt attention to enactment of federal legislation to preserve this national treasure and critical environmental resource in perpetuity. Thank you.

Audra Parker President and Chief Executive Officer Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound

Jeremy D'Entremont President American Lighthouse Foundation

Steve Holmer Vice President of Policy American Bird Conservancy

John Townes President Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing (BARS)

Zenas Crocker Executive Director Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

Historical Commissioners Barnstable Historical Commission

Janet Milkman Executive Director Barnstable Land Trust

John T. Griffin, Jr. Chairman Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission

Peter Allen and Michael Ausere Directors Bay State Wind

Robert S. Douglas President Black Dog Tall Ships/Coastwise Packet Co. Sara Johnson Director Cahoon Museum of American Art

Paul Niedzwiecki Chief Executive Director Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Brian Shortsleeve Owner Cape Cod Publications

Scott Zeien President Cape Cod Marine Trades Association

Elizabeth York Executive Director Cape Cod Maritime Museum

Jack Creighton President Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club

Zak Mertz Executive Director Cape Wildlife Center

Kurt Peterson Captain Catboat Charters

David Kaplan President Cetacean Society International

Gregory R. Egan Vice President Crosby Yacht Yard

Historic Commission Dennis Historical Commission

Dave Phillips Executive Director Earth Island Institute/ International Marine Mammal Project

District Commission Edgartown Historic District Commission Board of Directors Figawi Charities, Inc.

Jack Sheeran President Freedom Cruise Line Inc.

Angela Sanfilippo Executive Director Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association

Marty Bruemmel President Greater Hyannis Chamber of Commerce

Betsy Young President Greater Hyannis Civic Association

Board of Directors Harwich Chamber of Commerce

Michael Lach Executive Director Harwich Conservation Trust

Board of Directors Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit

Elizabeth Wurfbain Executive Director Hyannis Business Improvement District

Jack MacDonald President Hyannis Historical Society

Wayne Kurker President **Hyannis Marina**

Jake Filoon President Hyannis Port Civic Association

R. Murray Scudder, Jr. Vice President/Operation **Hy-Line Cruises** Charles Bardelis, Jr. Owner and President Island Queen/Island Commuter Corporation

David Duquette Chief Executive Office Littoral Power Systems

John R. Miller Executive Director Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative of New England (MRECo)

Nancy Gardella Executive Director Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce

Chuckie Green Director Natural Resources Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Ron Borjeson Vice President Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen

Dan O'Connell President and Chief Executive Officer Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

Kris Wiggin President Nantucket Anglers' Club

Board of Commissioners Nantucket Historic District Commission

Niles Parker Executive Director Nantucket Historical Association

Board of Directors Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce

Valerie Grussing Executive Director National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)

Fawn Sharp President National Congress of American Indians

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Bruce Cunningham President Osterville Anglers' Club

Jennifer Morgan Williams Executive Director Osterville Historical Museum

Peter Maryott Vice President **Oyster Harbors Marine**

Colleen Stephens President Passenger Vessel Association

Barbara Birdsey Founder Pegasus Foundation

Ed Anthes-Washburn Port Director and NBPA Executive Director **Port of New Bedford**

Jim Igoe President and Chief Executive Officer **Preservation Massachusetts**

Mike Oleksak President Save Popponesset Bay

John Haviland President South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association

Linda Morales-Morceau Chief **The Chappiquiddic Tribe of The Massachuset Nation**

Charles A. Birnbaum President and CEO **The Cultural Landscape Foundation** Mark Ells Town Manager Town of Barnstable

Board of Selectmen Town of Dennis

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Board of Selectmen Town of Harwich

Board of Selectmen Town of Mashpee

Select Board Town of Nantucket

Board of Selectmen
Town of Oak Bluffs

Board of Selectmen Town of Tisbury

Dan Knapik Town Administrator **Town of Yarmouth**

Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr. President United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)

Jeff Gales Executive Director **United States Lighthouse Society**

Brendan O'Neill Executive Director Vineyard Conservation Society

Erich Stephens Chief Development Officer Vineyard Wind

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais Chairwoman Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Robert B. Davis General Manager Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

Board of Directors Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce

Yarmouth Historical Committee Yarmouth Historical Commission









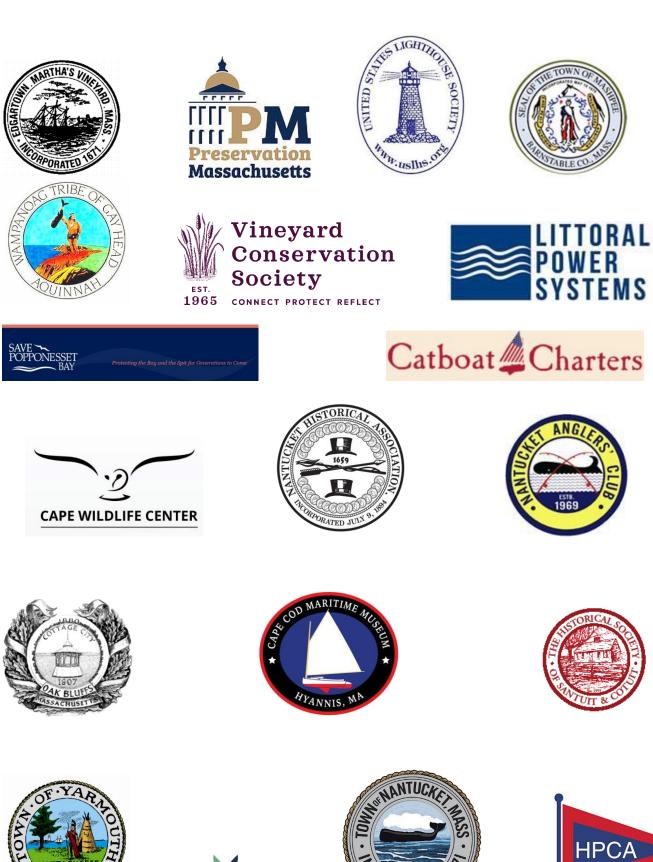








































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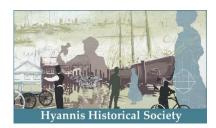


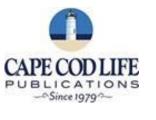
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