



Dear Friend,

March 2025

We hope the new year has been a happy one for you. 2025 presents us with new opportunities and challenges stemming from a changed political landscape at the federal, state, and local level. But our mission remains the same: the permanent protection and recognition of Nantucket Sound as a **National Historic Landmark**.

### **Federal Action**

Our new administration has issued a temporary withdrawal of all areas of the Outer Continental Shelf from offshore wind leasing. This directive temporarily removes all federal waters from wind development and calls for a review of existing leases. While this action pertains to the federal waters in the center of Nantucket Sound, it does not recognize the Sound as a sacred tribal site and is only a temporary measure with no long-term guarantee for the protection or historic recognition of Nantucket Sound. The Sound has long been the focus of cultural identity and practices of the Wampanoag Tribes and in 2010 was recognized as a Traditional Cultural Place eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to its tribal significance.

Our goal — to designate Nantucket Sound as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) — provides permanent protection and appropriate recognition for this historically, culturally, and environmentally significant body of water. **The Sound's designation as an NHL would safeguard it beyond temporary federal actions and changing political landscapes and provide this special place with the national recognition it deserves.** To that end, we continue to work with our federal delegation and key committees in D.C. to enact the **Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act** to achieve this critical designation.

### **State Action**

We are actively seeking support for the NHL designation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are actively engaging with key state agencies, including the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, to ensure that the permanent protection of Nantucket Sound is considered a state priority.

### **Local Action**

On the Cape and Islands, we thank State Senator Julian Cyr, and Representatives Steven Xiarhos, Kip Diggs, and David Viera, for their support in safeguarding Nantucket Sound for future generations. We also congratulate our newly elected officials — Representatives Thomas Moakley and Hadley Luddy, as well as State Senator Dylan Fernandes. We look forward to their joining the large and growing coalition of federal, state, local, and tribal stakeholders who share our goal of protecting the Sound and recognizing it as a sacred site and NHL.

The Alliance remains dedicated to ensuring the permanent recognition and protection of Nantucket Sound — one which will endure across changing political landscapes. We continue to work tirelessly to advance and achieve our mission, but **we need your generous support to succeed**. Together, we will make a lasting impact.

Thank you!

***Audra Parker, President***