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August 31, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Re: Community Impact of the Cape Cod Bridges

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective on how the Sagamore and Bourne bridges impact our local communities. Your recognition of the critical importance of the bridges to the Cape Cod region, and your efforts to secure federal funding to replace these functionally obsolete bridges with modern ones, are greatly appreciated.

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect, preserve and restore Cape Cod's natural resources. APCC focuses our efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water, and wetland resources, preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible, planned growth and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

As an environmental advocacy organization, our role in regional efforts to replace the two bridges is focused on ensuring that protection of the Cape's natural resources and environment are forefront in the planning process and that construction of the new bridges and associated interchanges is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner. At the same time, we are aware that continued use of the existing bridges raises concerns about the potential environmental consequences of their ongoing operation.

Delayed replacement of the bridges and the need for closures in order to conduct major rehabilitation of the aging infrastructure could impact the timing and cost of municipal wastewater management construction projects on Cape Cod by increasing

the costs of durable goods and labor, given that everything needed for sewer construction and wastewater treatment has to come across the bridges. This would add an even greater financial burden on Cape towns, which are already faced with a substantial price tag to clean up the region's coastal waters and freshwater ponds.

There is also the likelihood that, if the existing bridges remain in place, future disruptions in bridge traffic due to lengthy closures for maintenance and repair would result in economic impacts for the region. These economic impacts could translate into limited availability of local public and private financial resources used to purchase and protect open space that supports the Cape's remaining sensitive and high priority natural resource areas. Failure to protect such high priority natural resource areas would have an adverse effect on groundwater quality for drinking water supplies, protection of watersheds for freshwater ponds and coastal embayments, and preservation of rare species habitat. It could also limit the availability of local funding for wastewater infrastructure. A major source of funding for that purpose comes from fees from short term vacation rental properties that have the potential to be adversely impacted when easy access to and from the Cape becomes an impediment and disincentive.

Lastly, given the growing impacts of climate change and increased storm intensity, a delay in upgrading the bridges leaves Cape Cod residents doubly vulnerable to catastrophe, especially if a major hurricane requiring evacuation coincides with a period of bridge closure associated with a major rehabilitation.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide APCC's perspective on the need to replace the Sagamore and Bourne bridges, and the potential impacts that continued use of the existing bridges could have on the Cape's environment and efforts to improve the community's quality of life through environmental protection and restoration initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director