



The Town of Barnstable

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December 3, 2025

Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Massachusetts Dredge Program Grants

Dear Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll:

On behalf of the Town of Barnstable, I would like to express our concern regarding the reported absence of funding for the Massachusetts Dredging Program in the FY2027 state budget proposal.

This program is critical to support coastal communities like ours in addressing their critical dredging projects which sustain navigation, shellfishing, public safety, commercial fishing, recreational access, coastal resiliency and habitat. Without continued funding, many harbors across the Commonwealth, including in Barnstable, will face significant challenges maintaining safe and navigable waterways essential to these activities.

Maintenance dredging is a statewide economic, environmental and ecological necessity. Properly maintained channels ensure maritime industries, shellfish habitats and waterfront business remain viable while also protecting coastal ecosystems from sediment building and long-term degradation. In addition, dredging material is often utilized for beach and dune nourishment, providing a source of material to enhance community's coastal resiliency with the additional benefit of enhancing shorebird habitat.

We respectfully urge your administration to reinstate and prioritize funding for the Massachusetts Dredging Program in FY2027 and beyond, recognizing its essential role in sustaining the Commonwealth's blue economy and coastal resiliency goals.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and provide local insight into how this program directly benefits towns like Barnstable.

Respectfully,

Mark Ells
Town Manager