



# The Town of Barnstable

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Via E-Mail: [karen.spilka@masenate.gov](mailto:karen.spilka@masenate.gov)

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka  
President of the Senate  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: S.3050 An Act to Build Resilience for Massachusetts Communities

Dear Senate President Spilka,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Town of Barnstable in support of the above-referenced bill, which provides for a program of climate change adaptation, resiliency and the preservation and improvement of environmental and recreation assets of the Commonwealth, including, in particular, a \$450 million bonding authorization (Section 2E Line Item 0640-1008) for clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The capacity of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to support projects through the Clean Water Intended Use Plan (IUP) is of critical concern on Cape Cod as any decrease in funding capacity will significantly impact the ability of our communities to implement priority water quality projects. The SRF is facing real challenges. The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Job's Act (IIJA) provided unprecedented levels of federal funding for the SRF, resulting in a spike in projects supported through the program. However, IIJA funding is set to expire in 2026, and federal base grants have continued to decrease; this will result in a decrease in the amount of funding the SRF will be able to offer to communities in future IUPs. Additionally, a significant portion of the SRF's capacity will be allocated toward previously approved projects moving through their multi-year project delivery process in the upcoming years. With more resources needed to support these continuing projects, there will be less capacity available to fund new projects in subsequent IUPs. Further, increasing project costs and larger, more complex projects, such as nitrogen remediation on Cape Cod are placing additional pressure on available resources.

I note that I also serve on the board of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund (the "Fund") which was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2018 to help

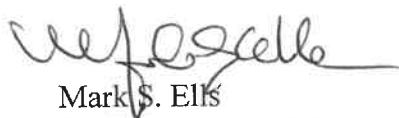
Cape Cod and Islands towns pay for necessary wastewater infrastructure and water quality remediation projects. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than \$300 million in subsidies to wastewater and water quality projects in 13 of the 15 Cape Cod communities. However, access to the 25% subsidy provided by the Fund is contingent on SRF financing; therefore, the negative impact of limited SRF capacity is amplified on Cape Cod, and its effect on the ability of Barnstable and other Cape towns to advance water pollution abatement efforts cannot be overstated.

We understand the significant demand for the SRF Program to provide financing for priority water quality projects throughout the Commonwealth. We urge you to support S.3050 and the funding it provides to ensure the SRF Program remains a reliable source of project financing in the future.

The Commonwealth has made a significant commitment to advancing clean water on Cape Cod and across the state. Supplementing the SRF with bond funds is consistent with the objectives of the region and the state to advance water quality and wastewater projects, allowing municipalities to proceed as required by Title 5 and the Watershed Permits.

Barnstable stands ready to support this critical funding source and to continue to move forward with efforts to advance water resource protection. I am available at your convenience to further discuss this matter.

Respectfully,



Mark S. Ellis  
Barnstable Town Manager

cc: Senator Julian Cyr  
Senator Dylan A. Fernandes  
Representative Kip A. Diggs  
Representative Thomas W. Moakley  
Representative Christopher R. Flanagan  
Representative David T. Vieira  
Representative Steven G. Xiarhos  
Representative Hadley Luddy  
Craig Tamash, President Barnstable Town Council  
Karen Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney