

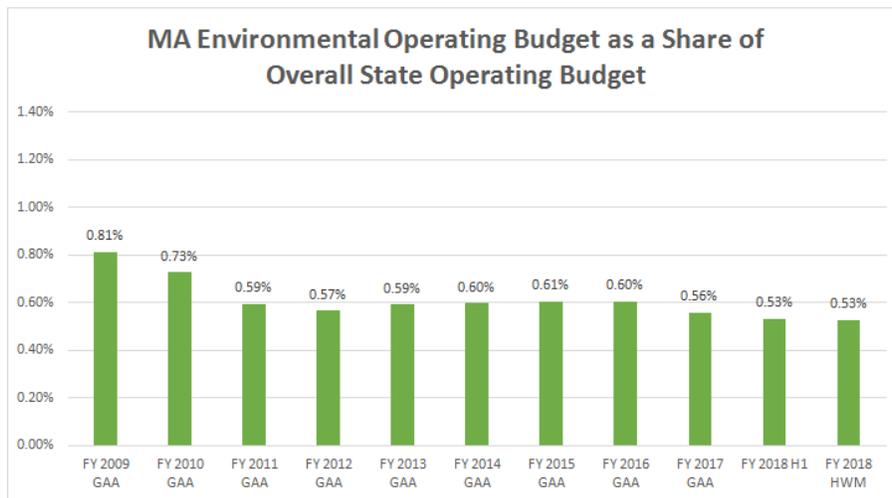
April 12, 2017

Dear Representative:

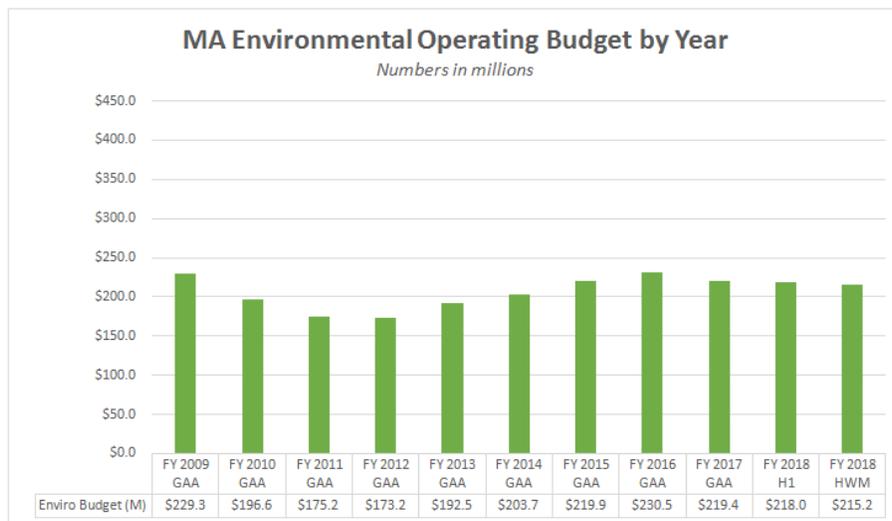
The Green Budget Coalition, led by the Environmental League of Massachusetts, is comprised of over 100 organizations and businesses from around the Commonwealth. **The Coalition requests that you co-sponsor the Green Budget amendments.**

WE ARE HEADING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

Half a penny of every state operating dollar is not enough to adequately protect our natural resources. As the state budget increases, *funding for our environment decreases*. This lack of investment translates into negative impacts for our public health, our economy, and our quality of life. With federal funds expected to drop for environmental protection and fighting climate change, it is especially crucial that the Massachusetts legislature takes a stand and invests in our environment.



As responsibilities and needs increase, funding is decreasing.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The amendments the Green Budget Coalition supports would provide full or partial funding restorations to important agencies and programs to foster healthy communities, clean water, and great parks. A healthy

environment and a strong economy go hand in hand. Our recommendations represent a small step toward 1% for the environment. Please support the amendments listed below.

*****TOP PRIORITIES*****

DEP Administration (Line-Item 2200-0100)

AMENDMENT BY REP. DAVE ROGERS

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$5,591,060 (to bring funding to \$30,000,000)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$24,408,940

FY18 Governor: \$24,408,940

FY17 GAA: \$25,037,437

Deep budget cuts and staff reductions in recent years have jeopardized the ability of MassDEP to do its work. Over the past few years, MassDEP staff have been reduced by 30%. There are currently 660 full-time employees, the lowest staffing level the agency has seen since 2005. As a result, the agency is extremely limited in its ability to issue permits in a timely fashion, provide technical assistance, and enforce state law.

MassDEP is experiencing a greater than 50% reduction in watershed data collection. Water quality monitoring statewide has dramatically been scaled back, and the regional monitoring program to collect bacteria samples and work with municipalities to eliminate pollutant sources has been all but eliminated. The public water quality assessments are decades behind, posing a threat to both the environment and public health. As a result, the agency has multi-year backlogs in its water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting; development of water pollution control plans (TMDLs); and issuance of water supply permits. MassDEP cannot reasonably be expected to safeguard our air and water without adequate resources.

President Trump has proposed a 31% cut to the EPA. In FY17, DEP received \$24M in federal grant funding. Of that \$24M, \$6M goes directly to water-related programming. With substantial cuts proposed at the federal level, state funding to protect our natural resources becomes even more crucial.

DCR State Parks & Recreation (Line-Item: 2810-0100)

AMENDMENT BY REP. PAUL SCHMID

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$6,836,272 (to bring funding to \$42,000,000)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$35,163,728

FY18 Governor: \$35,163,728

FY17 GAA: \$41,473,430

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is responsible for the stewardship, management and safety of our parks, parkways, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds. Overall, 450,000 acres of land come under DCR's purview, spread across more than 250 properties.

Over the past few years DCR's presence at properties around the state has noticeably dropped off, due to the budget being reduced by millions of dollars and an agency-wide staff reduction of 30%. The House Ways & Means budget represents a 15% cut to this line-item compared to FY17 GAA. For every \$1M, DCR can hire approximately 20 staff. In order to have open, staffed, well-maintained properties where laws are being

enforced and year-round programs are hosted to provide people of all ages with close-to-home, affordable nature and recreational activities, DCR needs to have the necessary resources and staffing.

Additional Amendments we Support:

Climate Adaptation & Preparedness (Line-Item 2000-0101)

AMENDMENT BY REP. FRANK SMIZIK

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$43,714 (to bring funding to \$200,000)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$156,286

FY18 Governor: \$ 183,514

FY17 GAA: \$150,000

Climate change has already started to detrimentally affect our environment, economy, and public health. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is responsible for implementing strategies to ensure the Commonwealth can respond to impacts from climate change and improve our resiliency. Funding will support the further implementation of Governor Baker's Executive Order 569, Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth. This includes developing an integrated action plan to address climate change impacts on economic, social and environmental sectors, establishing the Municipal Vulnerability and Preparedness program to help communities conduct vulnerability studies and prepare adaptation and resiliency plans, creating a website to compile data and best management practices for adaptation, and enhancing natural resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup (Line-Item 2260-8870)

AMENDMENT BY REP. CHRIS WALSH

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$1,996,214 (to bring funding to \$14,409,902)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$12,413,688

FY18 Governor: \$12,413,688

FY17 GAA: \$12,330,404

The Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup ensures immediate and effective response to environmental emergencies, such as oil spills, as well as timely assessment and cleanup of sites that have been contaminated by hazardous waste. There are hundreds of contaminated sites across the Commonwealth, particularly in Gateway Cities.

In recent years, the staffing for this program has been reduced. This was largely due to retirements, with only a percentage of those positions getting re-filled. The staffing reduction has put a strain on remaining staff and resulted in a diminished ability to conduct audits of the work by the Licensed Site Professionals (LSP's). LSP's are private parties who responsible under Massachusetts law for assessing and cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

This line-item funds emergency response, oversight of work on contaminated sites, program support, and technical assistance for brownfields redevelopment. Because resources need to be directed to emergency response, other aspects of the program have suffered.

A portion of the program's staff are funded through the Environmental Protection Agency, whose funding is in jeopardy. Therefore, returning this line-item to its FY16 funding level should be a priority for the legislature.

DCR Watershed Management (Line-Item 2800-0101)

AMENDMENT BY REP. CAROLYN DYKEMA

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$167,474 (to bring funding to \$1,100,000)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$932,526

FY18 Governor: \$932,526

FY17 GAA: \$954,975

This program conducts and helps fund critical research on water resources in Massachusetts, ensuring the protection of the drinking water supply for approximately 2.5 million residents in the Commonwealth. This office also provides invaluable technical assistance to municipalities, working with over 336 Massachusetts communities to assist with floodplain management and ensuring compliance with program requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program.

This office also staffs the Water Resources Commission which conducts water needs forecasting and they provide technical expertise and resources to the state's Drought Management Task Force. With the expected impacts of climate change generating periods of extreme drought and severe flooding that will threaten our resources, it is crucial that this agency is sufficiently funded to protect our rivers, lakes and water supplies.

Over the past few years, this office has lost four staff positions due to budget cuts. They have backfilled two of these positions by borrowing money from other funding sources, but they are still short two critical staffing positions. With additional funding, this office would be able to hire two more staff to work on invasive species, flood and drought management response.

Department of Agricultural Resources Administration (Line-Item 2511-0100)

AMENDMENT BY REP. PAUL SCHMID

FY18 Amendment Increase Amount: \$ 1,467,147 (to bring funding to \$6,424,798)

FY18 House Ways & Means: \$4,957,651

FY18 Governor: \$5,467,651

FY17 GAA: \$5,629,445

Massachusetts has over 7,700 farms and our agricultural sector supports 61,000, but the agency responsible for agricultural programs receives a miniscule amount of funds in the state operating budget. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) plays a key role in preserving farmland and assisting farmers in implementing best management practices to protect public health, foster environmentally sustainable, and increase financial viability. With additional funds, the agency would be better equipped to work with stakeholders to ensure that our agricultural industry is robust. The level of funding level we recommend for FY18 would:

- maintain FY16 GAA levels;
- increase funding for Buy Local by \$200,000 to meet growing demand; and
- increase funding for the Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP) by \$200,000 in order to help farmers navigate new food safety regulations.

Additional amendments we support include:

- **DCR Seasonals (Line-Item 2800-0501)**, Amendment 288, filed by Rep. Gailanne Cariddi
- **Community Preservation Act- Transfer of Consolidated Net Surplus Funds from the FY2016 Budget to Community Preservation Trust Fund**, filed by Rep. Kevin Honan

Please contact Erica Mattison, Environmental League of Massachusetts, emattison@environmentalleague.org, or cell phone 617-953-7175 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

GREEN BUDGET COALITION

Non-Profit Organization Endorsers

| | |
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| Environmental League of Massachusetts | Franklin Park Coalition |
| Acadia Center | Friend of Leo J. Martin Skiing |
| All Dorchester Sports League | Friends of Alewife Reservation |
| American Farmland Trust | Friends of Myles Standish State Forest |
| Appalachian Mountain Club | Friends of Pontoosuc Lake |
| Arborway Coalition | Friends of Robinson State Park |
| Association to Preserve Cape Cod | Friends of the Blue Hills |
| Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) | Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation |
| Berkshire Grown | Friends of the Public Garden |
| Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Friends of Upton State Forest |
| Better Future Project | Friends of Wompatuck State Park |
| Boston Harbor Now | Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts |
| Boston Park Advocates | Goldenrod Foundation |
| Brookline GreenSpace Alliance | Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited |
| Buzzards Bay Coalition | Green Newton |
| Campers of Massachusetts | GreenRoots, Inc. |
| Charles River Watershed Association | Groundwork Lawrence |
| Charlestown Waterfront Coalition | Groundwork Somerville |
| CISA: Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture | Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition |
| Clean Water Action | Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) |
| Climate Action Business Association (CABA) | Hoosic River Watershed Association |
| Connecticut River Watershed Council | Hop Brook Protection Association |
| Conservation Law Foundation | Housatonic Valley Association |
| East Quabbin Land Trust | Ipswich River Watershed Association |
| Emerald Necklace Conservancy | Keep Massachusetts Beautiful |
| Environment Massachusetts | Kestrel Land Trust |
| Esplanade Association | Lakes and Ponds of Western Massachusetts |
| Essex County Greenbelt | LivableStreets Alliance |
| Franklin Land Trust | Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust |
| | MA COLAP |
| | Mass Audubon |

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| Mass Energy Consumers Alliance | New England Mountain Bike Association |
| Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions | New England Wild Flower Society |
| Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition | New Marlborough Land Trust |
| Massachusetts Climate Action Network | Newton Conservators |
| Massachusetts Farm to School | North and South Rivers Watershed Association |
| Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network | OARS: For the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers |
| Massachusetts Horticultural Society | Parker River Clean Water Association |
| Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition | Project Green Schools |
| Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES) | Saunders Hotel Group |
| Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network | Save The Bay - Narragansett Bay |
| Massachusetts Rivers Alliance | Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance |
| Massachusetts Sierra Club | SuAsCo River Stewardship Council |
| Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance | Sudbury Valley Trustees |
| Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals | The Charles River Conservancy |
| Massachusetts Watershed Coalition | The Nature Conservancy |
| Merrimack River Watershed Council | The Trust for Public Land |
| Mothers Out Front | The Trustees |
| Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust | The Trustees Collaborative for Parks and Open Space |
| Mystic River Watershed Association | Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA |
| Nashua River Watershed Association | Western Massachusetts Public Lands Alliance |
| National Wildlife Federation | |
| Neponset River Watershed Association | |

Environmental League of Massachusetts Corporate Council Endorsers

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carpenter and Co. | Legal Sea Foods |
| Costa Fruit & Produce | Lyft |
| Eastern Bank | Saunders Hotel Group |
| EcoLogical Solutions | Trillium |
| Grossman Marketing Group | Triumvirate Environmental |