

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3551**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Peter J. Koutoujian**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a special commission on community farming.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	10th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY FARMING.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a special commission to consist of 15 members to bring  
2 all stakeholders of the community farming system together to review the ways in which aid and  
3 support can be provided to community farming initiatives within the Commonwealth. The  
4 special commission shall consist of the following members; the commissioner of the department  
5 of agricultural resources, or his designee, the commissioner of the department of public health, or  
6 his designee, and 13 persons to be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a  
7 representative from the Agriculture and Landscape program at the University of Massachusetts  
8 extension, one of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Public Health  
9 Association, one of whom shall be a representative of the Food Project, one of whom shall be a  
10 representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, one  
11 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Council,  
12 one of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Farm to School Project, one of  
13 whom shall be a representative of Massachusetts 4-H, one of whom shall be a representative of  
14 the New England Small Farm Institute, one of whom shall be a representative of the  
15 Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers, one of whom shall be a representative of the  
16 Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, and two of which shall be community farmers from the  
17 Commonwealth. The special commission shall be chaired by the commissioner of the  
18 department of agricultural resources, or his designee.

19 The purpose of this commission shall be to make recommendations regarding action steps to  
20 promote community farming, enhance the state's agricultural economy, improve the health of the  
21 citizens of Massachusetts by promoting fresh and locally-produced food and expanding their  
22 availability through community farms, promote environmental sustainability in the food system,  
23 help protect farmland and encourage the growth of community farming. In undertaking its  
24 review, the special commission shall examine among such areas it deems necessary, the

25 following: informing and educating lawmakers and the public about the state food system,  
26 coordinating and integrating the public agencies involved in food policy, such as agriculture,  
27 public health, environment, transportation, and community development, linking farmers with  
28 consumers, institutions and businesses, and identifying and supporting new approaches for  
29 preserving farmland and supporting the next generation of farmers.

30 The special commission shall submit a report within 12 months of the passage of this act to the  
31 joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture, and the house and senate  
32 committees on way and means.