

SENATE No. 537

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan L. Moran

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote natural carbon sequestration.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Susan L. Moran</i> | <i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i> | |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>Marc R. Pacheco</i> | <i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> | <i>2/2/2023</i> |
| <i>Mathew J. Muratore</i> | <i>1st Plymouth</i> | <i>2/17/2023</i> |
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | <i>2/23/2023</i> |

SENATE No. 537

By Ms. Moran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 537) of Susan L. Moran, Jack Patrick Lewis, Marc R. Pacheco, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote natural carbon sequestration. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
—————

An Act to promote natural carbon sequestration.

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

1 Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after section 3B, the
2 following section:-

3 Section 3C. The Secretary shall, in consultation with the department and the coastal zone
4 management office created in Section 4A of Chapter 21A, develop a quantified net positive
5 statewide carbon sequestration and storage goal for natural and working lands as defined in
6 Section 1. In consideration of Massachusetts’ substantial coastline, the Secretary shall study the
7 sequestration capacity of its salt marshes, seagrasses, and waterways in developing the
8 Commonwealth’s carbon sequestration goal. The sequestration goal shall be determined in
9 agreement with the statewide greenhouse gas emission reductions goals as established by the
10 Secretary.