

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## INITIATIVE PETITION OF DAVID JOHN O'NEILL AND OTHERS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

BOSTON, January 7, 2026.

Timothy Carroll  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives*  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Sir: — I herewith transmit to you, in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution “An Initiative Petition for a Law to Protect Water and Nature,” signed by ten qualified voters and filed with this department on or before December 3, 2025, together with additional signatures of qualified voters in the number of 89,216, being a sufficient number to comply with the provisions of said Article.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

## AN INITIATIVE PETITION.

Pursuant to Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended, the undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, ten in number at least, hereby petition for the enactment into law of the following measure:

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

## An Act to protect water and nature.

*Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:  
3  
4 Section 2EEEEEE. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
5 separate fund to be known as the nature for all fund. There shall be credited to the fund an  
6 amount equivalent to 50% of all monies received by the commonwealth from the receipts from  
7 taxes on sales and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses as classified  
8 under the 2022 revision of the North American Industry Classification Codes under chapter 64H  
9 and 641. The amount credited to the fund under this subsection shall be net of the dedicated sales  
10 tax revenue amount transferred under sections 35T and 35BB of chapter 10. The fund may  
11 accept public and private gifts, grants and donations to further the purposes of this section, and  
12 any other monies credited to or transferred from any other source pursuant to state law. The fund  
shall not be subject to section 5C of this chapter.

13 (b) For the purposes of this section, the phrase "natural resource conservation" shall mean: (1) the  
14 conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water and the quality of streams, rivers,

15    lakes and coasts; (ii) the conservation or restoration of farms, forests, and other land to advance  
16    statewide goals and plans in the areas of biodiversity, climate, natural and working lands,  
17    resiliency, and environmental justice; (iii) the creation and improvement of parks, greenspaces,  
18    trails, and outdoor recreation access, especially in neighborhoods with limited access to such  
19    resources; (iv) the conservation of land parcels to provide connectivity between open spaces; (v)  
20    the conservation and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural  
21    significance; and (vi) the provision of ongoing stewardship, outdoor recreation access, and  
22    management of such resources.

23    (c) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall make expenditures from the  
24    nature for all fund for the purposes of natural resource conservation.

25    (d) There shall be a 15-member board called the nature for all board comprised of the secretary  
26    of energy and environmental affairs, commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of  
27    conservation and recreation, the secretary of housing and livable communities, and the climate  
28    chief, and ten members of the public to be appointed by the Governor. The ten public members  
29    shall include representatives of underserved communities and indigenous peoples, and one or  
30    more persons with expertise or experience in natural resource conservation. The executive office  
31    of energy and environmental affairs may make expenditures from the fund to hire staff necessary  
32    to manage and make expenditures from the fund. The board shall promulgate regulations for  
33    expenditures from the nature for all fund by the executive office of energy and environmental  
34    affairs, including, but not limited to: (i) requirements for natural resource conservation that  
35    support and align with environmental justice principles, as defined in section 62 of chapter 30;  
36    (ii) requirements for access and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural  
37    significance, (iii) guidelines to promote natural resource conservation in concert with affordable

38 housing development; (iv) guidelines that prevent expenditures from supplanting or otherwise  
39 resulting in a decrease in bond cap spending on existing capital programs; and (vi) guidelines for  
40 the scope and prioritization of special obligation bonds issued to support natural resource  
41 conservation.

42 (e) State agencies, municipalities or groups of municipalities, regional governments, other  
43 regional public entities including, but not limited to, regional planning agencies, economic  
44 development districts, and water districts, operating public charities with purposes involving  
45 natural resource conservation, and tribal governments shall be lawful recipients of such  
46 expenditures.

47 (f) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall submit annually to the board,  
48 the environmental justice council established in section 62L of chapter 30, the House and Senate  
49 Committees on Ways & Means, and the Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources a  
50 report of the proportion of funds expended from the nature for all fund that are dedicated to the  
51 acquisition or improvement of land in cities or towns containing environmental justice  
52 populations as defined in section 62 of chapter 30.

53 (g) All of the provisions of this section shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature.

54 SECTION 2. Subsection 2EEEEEE(a) of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended in  
55 the second sentence by striking out the words “50% of”.

56 SECTION 3. Section 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

57 SECTION 4. Section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2028.



FIRST TEN SIGNERS

| <u>NAME</u>                       | <u>RESIDENCE</u>    | <u>CITY OR TOWN</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| David John O'Neill                | 21 Summer Street    | Newburyport         |
| Samuel Anderson                   | 220 Sargent Road    | Boxborough          |
| Andrew Dumoulin                   | 19 High Street      | Marblehead          |
| Randolph Nelson<br>Wentworth      | 19 Brown Street     | Cambridge           |
| Roseann Bongiovanni               | 7 Bell Street       | Chelsea             |
| Julia R. Blatt                    | 27 Skahan Road      | Belmont             |
| Heather Anne Clish                | 51 Deering Street   | Reading             |
| Bradley McAllerton<br>Campbell    | 17 Auburn Street    | Boston              |
| Kathleen Alexandra<br>Theoharides | 15 Eustis Street    | Arlington           |
| Anna Leigh Renkert                | 297 Main Street, #7 | Medford             |

CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

September 3, 2025.

Honorable William Francis Galvin  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Re: Initiative Petition No. 25-15: Initiative Petition for a Law to Protect Water & Nature – Version A

Dear Secretary Galvin:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, I have reviewed the above-referenced initiative petition, which was submitted to me on or before the first Wednesday of August of this year.

I hereby certify that this measure is in proper form for submission to the people; that the measure is not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same as any measure which has been qualified for submission or submitted to the people at either of the two preceding biennial state elections; and that it contains only subjects that are related or are mutually dependent and which are not excluded from the initiative process pursuant to Article 48, the Initiative, Part 2, Section 2.

In accordance with Article 48, I enclose a fair, concise summary of the measure.

Sincerely,

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL,  
*Attorney General.*

## SUMMARY OF 25-15

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, would receive 50% of state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for the first year of its operation. After July 1, 2028, the Nature for All Fund would begin receiving, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, 100% of state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses. The sales tax revenue received by the Nature for All Fund would exclude sales tax revenue transferred to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority State and Local Contribution Fund and the School Modernization and Reconstruction Trust Fund. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend the money in the Nature for All Fund for natural resource conservation.

The proposed law would allow public and private donations to the Nature for All Fund. The proposed law would prevent the state comptroller from transferring surplus funds in the Nature for All Fund at the end of the fiscal year. It would also allow state agencies, municipalities, public charities involved in natural resource conservation, tribal governments, and other regional public entities to receive money from the Nature for All Fund.

Natural resource conservation would include the conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water, streams, rivers, lakes, coasts, farms, forests, connectivity between open spaces, and lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance. Natural resource conservation would also include the creation, improvement, and management of parks, trails, greenspaces or outdoor recreation access.

The proposed law would establish a 15-member Nature for All Board that consists of five state officials and ten members of the public appointed by the Governor. The proposed law would require the ten members of the public to include representatives of underserved communities and indigenous peoples and at least one person with expertise or experience in natural resource conservation. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend money from the Nature for All Fund to hire staff to manage the fund. The proposed law would also require the Nature for All Board to establish rules about how the money in the Nature for All Fund should be spent, including rules regarding alignment with environmental justice principles, access to and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance, promotion of affordable housing development, and other matters regarding spending and bond issuance.

The proposed law would require the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to submit an annual report to various state committees regarding the funds spent to buy or improve land in cities and towns containing environmental justice populations.

The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2027.