

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:

HOUSE No. 5005

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 Section 2EEEEEE. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a
4 separate fund to be known as the nature for all fund. There shall be credited to the fund an
5 amount equivalent to 50% of all monies received by the commonwealth from the receipts from
6 taxes on sales and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses as classified
7 under the 2022 revision of the North American Industry Classification Codes under chapter 64H
8 and 64I. The amount credited to the fund under this subsection shall be net of the dedicated sales
9 tax revenue amount transferred under sections 35T and 35BB of chapter 10. The fund may
10 accept public and private gifts, grants and donations to further the purposes of this section, and
11 any other monies credited to or transferred from any other source pursuant to state law. The fund
12 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: (i) the
14 conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water and the quality of streams, rivers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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	19 Brown Street	Cambridge
Wentworth		
Roseann Bongiovanni	7 Bell Street	Chelsea
Julia R. Blatt	27 Skahan Road	Belmont
Heather Anne Clish	51 Deering Street	Reading
Bradley McAllerton	17 Auburn Street	Boston
Campbell		
Kathleen Alexandra	15 Eustis Street	Arlington
Theoharides		
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.