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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 6, 2016

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable William R. Keating
315 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
1714 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Representative Tsongas, and Representative Keating:

Recently members of my Administration met with state and local officials representing the Town of Chatham to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") unsubstantiated claim that the Service acquired any submerged land under Nantucket Sound pursuant to the 1944 Judgment on the Declaration of Taking. I write to express my strong support for their position and for the request they made of you to seek legislative action.

The Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge is one of the Commonwealth's most spectacular natural treasures. For hundreds of years Cape Cod residents and visitors alike have enjoyed the natural beauty of Monomoy Island. Regrettably, the Service overreached in its recently finalized Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) by claiming that the open waters and seabed to the west of Monomoy Island are part of the Refuge. Prior to the new CCP the Service had never made this assertion. In truth, this area is owned by the Commonwealth and for centuries the Town of Chatham and the Commonwealth have jointly managed the fisheries and other activities in the area. The legal basis for this position is well documented in the Commonwealth's Office of Attorney General's December 7, 2015 CCP comment letter.

The refuge boundary dispute with the Service is not about environmental concerns or the proper stewardship of the area's natural resources. Indeed, for centuries the Commonwealth and the Town of Chatham have done an exemplary job of protecting and managing the areas fisheries and shellfish resources and we will continue to do so. Unfortunately, the position of the Service ignores this commitment to the stewardship and sustainable use of all the area's natural resources.

While the Commonwealth and Town may be forced to take legal action, we are hoping to avoid this substantial cost through Federal legislation clarifying the Refuge boundary. My Administration stands ready to assist you in this legislative effort and to provide whatever help may be needed to secure success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles D. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Charles D. Baker
Governor

cc: Attorney General Maura Healey
Secretary Matthew Beaton