September 15, 2017

The Honorable Rob W. Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

I am writing to urge your support of H.R. 1157, legislation recently introduced by Congressman Keating to clarify the western boundary of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (Reˈjuːɡe). This legislation, which was the subject of a subcommittee hearing on April 5, is necessary to correct and clarify the boundary between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and lands west of the refuge that are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the years before and after creation of the Refuge in 1944, the Commonwealth and the Town of Chatham have sustainably managed fisheries, provided sensible public access, and exercised sound stewardship over the open waters and submerged lands west of Monomoy Island. Several years ago, the FWS began the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge. As a part of this process, the FWS reinterpreted the Declaration of Taking and adjusted the ownership and control the submerged lands and overlying waters to the west.

My office has been working with Congressman Keating, the Town of Chatham and the many surrounding communities impacted by this reinterpretation to support the clarification.

I hope you will be able to support the legislation and move it through your Committee. We would be pleased to provide any additional information you may require.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Charles D. Baker
Governor