



# Town of Chatham

Office of the Selectmen  
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Honorable Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor;

*Charlie*

On behalf of the Town of Chatham I want to thank you for your past support of federal legislation intended to resolve the dispute over the western boundary of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). Your July 6, 2016 letter to our Congressional delegation was instrumental in the introduction of H.R. 1157, legislation introduced this year by Rep. William Keating, that restores the recognized historic western boundary of the Refuge. However, it has become clear that we need your support to get the bill through Congress.

To demonstrate how important your involvement is to the community we submit the attached petitions. In a little over two weeks, more than 1,000 individuals expressed their desire and support for your involvement in moving the legislation through Congress. From the Mayors of Gloucester and New Bedford, to summer residents from the Berkshires, and non-resident taxpayers/visitors from across the country, there is overwhelming and widespread support for your involvement.

I can report that the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1157 on April 5<sup>th</sup> during which a representative from the Town testified in support of the bill. Since the controversy revolves around an illegal taking by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of submerged lands west of Monomoy Island, owned by the Commonwealth, the Republican leadership of the Committee is interested in your position.

We ask that you write a letter of support for H.R. 1157 and you contact the Committee and House leadership to help get the bill passed through the House. We know that your Washington, D.C. office has been following this issue and working with our Washington representative, Mr. Jeffrey Pike of Pike Associates. I have asked Mr. Pike to provide your staff with any assistance they require.

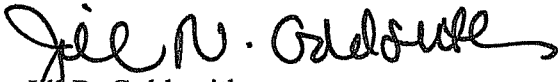
I hope that the expressions of support contained in the petitions demonstrate the importance of resolving this boundary dispute by retaining Commonwealth ownership of the disputed area. For

Honorable Governor Charlie Baker

decades, before and after the creation of the Refuge, the Commonwealth and Town sustainably managed the natural resources of this area while providing very important public access. The overreach of the FWS to arbitrarily more than double the size of the Refuge through an illegal administrative taking cannot be allowed to stand. Your active engagement in this process is critical to the success of the legislation.

Thank you again for your continued support. Should you have any questions regarding the forgoing, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov](mailto:jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov) or 508.945.5105.

Sincerely,



Jill R. Goldsmith  
Chatham Town Manager

*Enclosure*

Cc: Chatham Board of Selectmen  
Congressman William Keating  
Senator Edward Markey  
Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito  
State Representative Sarah Peake  
State Senator Julien Cyr  
Matthew Beaton, Secretary, MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
Ronald Amidon, Commissioner, MA Department of Fish & Game