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*For Immediate Release*

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## **Representative Kane joins House colleagues in approving \$3 billion environmental bond bill**

**BOSTON** – The House of Representatives has approved a comprehensive bond bill containing nearly \$3 billion in capital authorizations to support a variety of local and statewide environmental initiatives.

House Bill 4599, An Act promoting climate change adaptation, environmental and natural resource protection, and investment in recreational assets and opportunity, provides a five-year blueprint for environmental spending by the state. State Representative Hannah Kane, R-Shrewsbury supported the bill, which passed the House on a vote of 143-3 on June 13.

“This bill provides substantial long-term investments in our Commonwealth’s precious natural resources and environment, to the benefit of our residents across the Commonwealth,” stated Representative Kane. “I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting this legislation, which affords municipalities’ valuable opportunities towards local conservation and emphasizes a sustained approach towards natural resource protection and environmental stewardship.”

House Bill 4599 provides funding to help protect and maintain environmental resources across the state, including rivers and wetlands, as well as critical infrastructure such as dams, seawalls, jetties, and retaining walls. In addition to outlining new spending proposals, House Bill 4599 also reauthorizes a number of prior spending authorizations that were included in a 2014 environmental bond bill but never moved forward.

The bill includes \$420 million in funding for the preservation of state-owned forests, parks, campgrounds and reservations around the Commonwealth. It also provides \$55 million for the Department of Transportation’s Complete Streets Program, which offers technical assistance and construction funding to help municipalities reduce traffic congestion and make local roadways safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. An amendment adopted during floor debate requires at least one-third of this funding to be set aside for communities where the median household income is below the state average.

In an attempt to address climate change and promote coastal resiliency measures, House Bill 4599 requires the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to publish an integrated state climate adaptation and hazard mitigation plan every five years. The two agencies must also establish frameworks for state agency and municipal vulnerability assessments.

The bill also creates a new Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program within EEA, along with a revolving fund to finance municipal loans. This program will help cities and towns protect local resources by allowing communities to purchase a conservation restriction on one parcel of land and then sell the development rights to the developer of a second parcel.

The environmental bond bill, which must be worked under the state's bond cap and ultimately approved by Governor Baker, now moves to the Senate for further action.

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