

Resiliency: Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure Today That Will Improve Quality of Life for All

Infrastructure decisions we make today will determine the kind of world in which our children and grandchildren live

Support Comprehensive Adaptation Management Planning (CAMP) in Response to Climate Change

(CAMP is included in S2121, *An Act relative to 2030 and 2040 emissions benchmarks.*

Currently before the House Committee on Ways and Means and already approved by the Senate)

ISSUE

Sea-level rise, heat waves, and increases in storm intensity or frequency, pose major risks to the Commonwealth, its infrastructure, its tax base, its natural resources, and its residents, businesses, and institutions. Climate adaptation-preparing for the different local environmental conditions and impacts that result from climate change-is an essential part of ensuring our resiliency. We need to consider the “triple bottom line” – *Environmental, Social and Economic factors*, and the overarching principle of *Resiliency – our ability to withstand and rebound from climate change impacts.*

KEY POINTS

- Recent coastal storms have pounded Massachusetts, but we are at risk and have dodged bullets. We have a highly developed coast line with 4.2 million Massachusetts residents living within 10 miles of the coast, 66% of the state's total population.* Land parcels within 10 miles of the coast comprise \$750 billion of assessed property value (land and improvements), 73% of the assessed value in the state.*
- Tropical Storm Irene slammed central and western Massachusetts in 2011, closing Route 2 and flooding communities. Heavy rains in 2005 caused the evacuation of Taunton, costing the city \$2 million. Vulnerable populations, such as seniors, have been impacted by extreme heat waves.
- Boston, one of most vulnerable U.S. cities to climate change impacts, is among a small number of Massachusetts municipalities and regional planning agencies to take a leadership role to develop plans for adaptation.

ACTIONS REQUESTED

- *Urge House members to Support CAMP provisions in SB 2121 to take the next steps to build upon the Commonwealth's initial climate change adaptation efforts.* The Commonwealth convened an Adaptation Commission and prepared an Adaptation Report (2011). Several state agencies have played a leadership role by conducting vulnerability studies, weaving adaptation into their programs and technical assistance to communities. However, we lack an integrated approach, which leaves us with pockets of vulnerability, risky infrastructure investments and populations at risk.
- Thank Senators for supporting this language, through several votes this session.
- CAMP will require the Commonwealth to conduct a statewide vulnerability study and action plan. The plan would: set goals, select priorities from among recommendations in the 2011 Adaptation Report and determine roles and responsibilities among public and private stakeholders, set timelines and designates resources.
- Invest in sustainable infrastructure, which considers both lifecycle and capital costs.

*Data courtesy of MAPC Data Services