

## **Action Alert – Help get the Conservation Incentives Act passed**

With over 40 acres of land being developed across the state every day, legislation to encourage landowners to protect their land is currently before the House Committee on Ways & Means. H.799, the Conservation Incentives Act would provide a state income tax credit to taxpayers who donate land for conservation. The House of Representatives needs to act on this important bill before the formal legislative session ends on July 31!

The Nature Conservancy is urging the House to vote on the bill before the legislative session ends.

### **Here's how you can help!**

- Contact your Representative and Senator ask him/her to urge legislative leadership to move H.799, the Conservation Incentives Act, for a floor vote. H.799 is currently before the House Committee on Ways & Means.
- Dial 617-722-2000 and ask for your representative by name. If you don't know your representative's name, then mention your town and the operator will connect you or see [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com)
- You can also get your legislator's contact information at: House: [www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm) Senate: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenus.htm>

H.799, An Act Relative to Establishing Massachusetts Land Conservation Incentives Under the Conservation Incentives Act, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs must determine whether lands proposed for donation are in the public interest. Lands protecting drinking water supplies, un-fragmented wildlife habitat, archaeological and historical resources, scenic vistas, recreational opportunities may be eligible. Qualified donors would receive a state income tax credit valued at 50% of the appraised value of the land, limited to \$50,000. The credit cannot exceed the donor's annual state income taxes, and may be carried forward for 10 years. For more facts please visit: [http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/massachusetts/files/conservation\\_tax\\_incentives\\_final.pdf](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/massachusetts/files/conservation_tax_incentives_final.pdf)

Fourteen other states have adopted state income tax credit programs to provide the stimulus needed to tip the balance in favor of conservation. A recently updated Impact Analysis (December 2007) by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue revealed that the Conservation Incentives Act would have a negligible impact on state revenues.

The actions taken over the next decade by public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners to address the unrelenting pressures of development will permanently shape the future of the Commonwealth's landscape. The time has arrived to make conservation a more attractive financial option for the future.

***Thank you for your support!***