Defending the places we love

You’re standing up against federal rollbacks

From the Berkshires to Cape Cod, for more than a century Americans have taken action to protect the places we love, guided by our shared values and informed by the best advice of our scientists.

Yet President Trump and the 115th Congress have embarked on a reckless, shortsighted plan to dismantle dozens of environmental protections.

Environment Massachusetts and our nationwide network are working to inform the public about what’s at stake, hold the administration and Congress accountable, and build the support necessary to defend our health and the places we love.

Clean air, clean water, open spaces

The president and Congress are working to eliminate federal protection for 4,279 miles of streams in Massachusetts, with nearly 2 million miles of streams left unprotected across America. They’re moving backward on climate action and endangering public health by moving to shut down the Clean Power Plan, a key part of our commitment to reduce global warming pollution.

Even worse, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now being run by Scott Pruitt, even though he sued the EPA 14 times to block environmental protections. And perhaps most frighteningly, the White House’s 2018 budget proposal aims to slice the EPA’s overall budget by 31 percent and staffing by 21 percent.

So we’re uniting people from all sides of the political spectrum in urging our senators to stand up and defend our environmental protections.

In response to moves by the president and Congress that would threaten the people and places we love, Americans like you across the country and from all sides of the political spectrum are standing up for clean water, limits on carbon pollution and smog, and protected wild places.

Acting on our shared values

You, our members, are taking action, generating thousands of petitions, calls and emails to our elected leaders. This is making an impact, but we need to do more. The leaders and activists of the past organized the first Earth Day, supported and passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and created the EPA. Now the torch passes to us. The children we know and love today can live cleaner, healthier lives in a greener world, but only if we can keep our protections in place and make them stronger.

take action

We need your help to defend our environmental protections. Take action online to urge our senators to stand up for the people and places we love in Massachusetts.

www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org

Our national citizen outreach staff are speaking with households across the country this summer to educate, mobilize and unite Americans to defend our environment and health.
Your Impact

Mass. is leading the way on renewable energy

In February, Massachusetts lawmakers sided with Environment Massachusetts members and supporters when they introduced legislation that would commit our state to 100 percent renewable energy. The bill, filed by Sen. Eldridge and Reps. Garballey and Decker, would put Massachusetts on a path to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity generation by 2035, and require other sectors, including heating and transportation, to be powered entirely with renewable energy by 2050.

“If passed, this would be the most ambitious state-level clean energy commitment in the nation, and would make Massachusetts the first state to commit to 100 percent renewable energy economy-wide,” said Environment Massachusetts State Director Ben Hellerstein.

We’re working to demonstrate public support for the legislation by mobilizing members and citizens across the state to voice their support to our elected officials, and continuing to push more cities, universities and companies to make commitments to a 100 percent renewable future.

How you can protect public lands

Just weeks after the 115th Congress convened for the first time, Rep. Jason Chaffetz filed a bill that would sell off 3.3 million acres of America’s public lands. But he wasn’t expecting the public opposition from hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and supporters of wilderness like you. More than 1,000 people showed up at a pro-public lands rally in Helena, Mont., the hashtag #keepitpublic zipped around Twitter, and Rep. Chaffetz’s Facebook page filled up with criticism. One week after introducing the legislation, Chaffetz announced that he would withdraw his bill—which goes to show what people power can accomplish.

Environment Massachusetts has also been working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), one of our nation’s most incredible landscapes. This national treasure is home to polar bears, grizzlies, caribou and wolves, but the oil and gas industry is threatening to exploit the region for profit.

That’s why, with your support, we’re mobilizing members and supporters to urge Congress to designate the ANWR as permanently protected wilderness.

Toward a greener future

Environment Massachusetts and Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 x312 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.
A new report by Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center and MASSPIRG Education Fund shows that lead in drinking water is a pervasive problem in Massachusetts and across the country. Nearly half (49.7%) of the more than 40,000 taps tested at Massachusetts’ public schools as of January 6 found some level of lead in the water.

The report, “Get the Lead Out,” analyzes 16 state’s laws around the testing and removal of lead from drinking water. Massachusetts received a grade of “D.” While the state has conducted some lead testing in schools, state laws are inadequate to remove sources of lead contamination once a problem is discovered.

In response to this growing evidence of widespread lead contamination in schools’ drinking water, Environment Massachusetts, MASSPIRG, Toxics Action Center Campaigns, and pediatrician Dr. Haley Teich joined Rep. Ehrlich and Sen. Lovely in a State House press conference in February, calling for swift action in passing An Act Ensuring Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs to ensure lead-free water in Massachusetts schools and daycare centers.

**Lead in our kids’ schools?**

The health threat of lead in schools’ water deserves immediate attention from state and local policymakers for two reasons. First, lead is highly toxic and especially damaging to children—impairing how they learn, grow, and behave. So, we ought to be particularly vigilant against this health threat at schools and pre-schools, where our children spend their days learning and playing.

Second, federal rules only apply to the roughly 10 percent of schools and preschools that provide their own water. Moreover, these rules only require remediation when testing confirms lead concentrations in excess of 15 parts per billion, even though medical and public health experts are unanimous that there is no safe level of lead for our children.

**Kids need safe drinking water**

The Environment Massachusetts-backed legislation in the State House requires the removal of lead service lines, the largest single source of lead in water; the installation of NSF-certified filters on faucets or fountains; and the regular testing of water at schools. It also requires the immediate shut-off of outlets where lead concentrations exceed one part per billion as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

With backing from members like you, we can build the necessary public support to urge our decision-makers to prioritize our children’s health by passing this bill as soon as possible.

“Everyone should have access to clean, safe drinking water—especially our kids, whose health is most at risk from lead pollution,” said Ben Hellerstein, state director for Environment Massachusetts. “With thousands of tests showing lead in Massachusetts’ schools, we can’t afford to waste any time to protect children from this clear health threat.”

**Explore more online**

Our staff released our new report, “Get the Lead Out,” in Boston to educate people on the threats lead can pose to our children.

Read the full report at: www.EnvironmentMassachusettsCenter.org.
**Environment Massachusetts**

**Our mission**

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That’s the idea behind Environment Massachusetts, Incorporated, a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Massachusetts’ air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

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**Chefs join our call to save bees**

As a member of Environment Massachusetts, you have supported our work to save bees and our food supply by calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides. You may have taken action by signing our petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), spreading the word in your community, or planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. In fact, all of our work on this campaign has only been possible thanks to the support of passionate members like you.

This winter, our campaign took another step forward when 235 restaurateurs sent a letter calling on the EPA to ban bee-killing pesticides. Then, in February, 65 chefs and restaurant owners joined with Environment Massachusetts to launch the Bee Friendly Food Alliance.

“From family run pizza shops to fine dining destinations, chefs and restaurant owners around the country are coming together to Save the Bees,” said Christy Leavitt, Bee Friendly Food Alliance Coordinator with Environment Massachusetts. “Chefs know up close and personal: no bees means no food.”

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**Support our efforts**

If you are a chef or restaurateur who is interested in joining the Bee Friendly Food Alliance, visit bit.ly/BeeFriendlyFood to learn more and sign up.