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## TOWN OF CHILMARK CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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The Chilmark Board of Selectmen urges the Legislature to grant this Home Rule Petition.

At our Annual Town Meeting on April 28, 2014 173 voters passed Article 27 unanimously. This article requested that a Home Rule Petition be sent to the Great & General Court to validate the 1990 regulations in the Squibnocket Pond District of Critical Planning Concern, and to exempt these regulations from the State Pesticide Control Act.

This is the most recent in a long history of action by the citizens of Chilmark to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Squibnocket Pond area. In 1989 the town commissioned a study of the Squibnocket great pond due to concerns over the health of the Pond.

This study was done by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the Marine Biological Laboratory. Both are world-renowned organizations with a strong history in research and public-private partnership.

Two of their pre-eminent scientists in water quality and natural resources issued a 70 page report recommending stringent measures to protect Squibnocket Pond. They concluded that the Squibnocket Pond was endangered, and that it was the most fragile of the Great Ponds on the south shore of Martha's Vineyard Island because it does not open to the ocean. That is to say, what is put in the pond stays in the pond.

Our Town Meeting approved the protective measures in 1990 and created a special overlay district via the Martha's Vineyard Commission public process, and Town Meeting. The Attorney General approved this overlay district and its regulations.

These stringent measures have been adopted only in the Squibnocket Pond District of Critical Planning Concern. Where we are seeking protection covers a very small % of the area of the town of Chilmark. Our request for this Home Rule is based on scientific opinion of the most pre-eminent scientists and is based entirely on local conditions unique to the Squibnocket Pond.

We apologize for not being able to attend today's hearing in person. We were unable to secure ferry or plane reservations when notified of the hearing. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of this commonwealth and for allowing our testimony to be entered into the hearing record for this bill.

Sincerely, Board of Selectmen

William Rossi

Jonathan Mayhew

Warren Doty

*By Director [Signature] Jonathan Mayhew*