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November 3, 2025

Eve Isenberg, Chair
Community Preservation Committee, Town of Concord
141 Keyes Road
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Letter of Support for Establishing a Conservation Fund through CPA Funding

Dear Ms. Isenberg and Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

On behalf of the trustees, I write to offer Concord Land Conservation Trust's strong support for the Town of Concord Division of Natural Resources' request for \$500,000 in CPA funding to establish a dedicated Conservation Fund. As a longstanding conservation partner in Concord, we recognize the essential need for flexible and strategic tools to protect the town's most ecologically and culturally significant open spaces.

The Land Trust has collaborated with the Town on several successful land protection efforts over the years, including Assabet River Bluff, Rogers Land, October Farm Riverfront, Mattison Field and others. However, we have also experienced firsthand how land protection opportunities can be lost when funding is not readily available. The ability to act swiftly, whether to meet a seller's deadline that is not aligned with the Town Meeting schedule or to secure an option to purchase while lining up longer term funding, can mean the difference between permanent conservation and permanent loss.

Establishing a Conservation Fund aligns closely with our shared mission to preserve biodiversity, protect water resources, and sustain farmlands for future generations. The Conservation Fund will play a critical role in permanently protecting irreplaceable landscapes that would otherwise be lost forever, particularly those identified in the *2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan* and in *Envision Concord: A Bridge to 2030*. It will enhance the Town's ability to partner with CLCT and other land trusts and state agencies, leverage grant funding, and fulfill our town's vision for balanced growth and open space preservation.

We encourage the Community Preservation Committee to support this investment in Concord's natural heritage. A dedicated Conservation Fund will ensure the Town remains ready to respond when conservation opportunities arise and continues to honor the legacy of stewardship of nature that defines both our past and our future.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Polly Reeve, Chair
For the Trustees

Cc: Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director

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