

HOUSE No. 971

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel J. Hunt and Sean Garballey

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montañó</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 971

By Representatives Hunt of Boston and Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 971) of Daniel J. Hunt, Sean Garballey and others for legislation to establish a climate change superfund and promoting polluter responsibility. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. (a) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall establish a
2 pilot program for research activities and demonstration projects for nature-based solutions, as
3 defined in section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws. The program shall: (i) define categories
4 of nature-based solutions and develop standards for their use; (ii) coordinate, streamline and
5 expedite the permitting and review process for activities and projects; and (iii) prioritize
6 activities and projects that advance scientific knowledge, provide conservation benefits, and
7 minimize impacts to existing wetlands. The secretary of energy and environmental affairs and
8 commissioners/directors of permitting agencies may modify specific performance standards for
9 nature-based solutions.

10 (b) The pilot program shall commence upon the effective date of this Act and operate for
11 5 years. Not later than one year from the effective date of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
12 secretary shall file a report with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the joint

13 committee on environment and natural resources that: (i) details the categories of nature-based
14 solutions; (ii) analyzes the approval time for all permits required for each approved research
15 activity or demonstration project; (iii) specifies any specific performance standards modified for
16 each approved research activity or project; and (iv) provides data about the effectiveness of each
17 approved research activity or project.