

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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 to facilitate and simplify grant application procedures for family farms.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:			
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex			
Carolyn C. Dykema	8th Middlesex			
Danielle W. Gregoire	4th Middlesex			
Kimberly N. Ferguson	1st Worcester			
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth			
Steven S. Howitt	4th Bristol			
Brian M. Ashe	2nd Hampden			
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and			
	Middlesex			
Angelo M. Scaccia	14th Suffolk			
Paul A. Schmid, III	8th Bristol			
Norman J. Orrall	12th Bristol			
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester			
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	16th Middlesex			
Colleen M. Garry	36th Middlesex			
Dean A. Tran	Worcester and Middlesex			
Hannah Kane	11th Worcester			
Michael D. Brady	Second Plymouth and Bristol			

Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire		
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.	12th Worcester		
James K. Hawkins	2nd Bristol		
Julian Cyr	Cape and Islands		

HOUSE No. 801

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 801) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to facilitate and simplify grant application procedures for family farms. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court (2019-2020)

An Act to facilitate and simplify grant application procedures for family farms.

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.	Chapter 20 of the	General Laws,	as appearing	in the 2016	Official Edition,
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2 is hereby amended by adding after section 32 the following section:—

3 Section 33. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the board, shall develop a single 4 uniform application for use by owners of farms in the commonwealth for application to any and 5 all grant and other assistance programs administered by the department, including, without 6 limitation, the Massachusetts farm energy program, the agricultural energy grant program, the 7 agricultural environmental enhancement program and the agricultural climate resiliency and 8 efficiencies program; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to the agricultural 9 preservation restriction program. The uniform application shall be consistent with federal grant 10 and program application criteria in order to facilitate applications to federal programs including 11 the Rural Energy for America Program.

(b) The department shall designate an administrator or separate office within department to provide advice, technical assistance and other guidance to owners of farms who apply for grants and other programs through the department. The administrator or office shall provide applicants with information and resources regarding any and all grants and programs available through the department and any other state or federal programs.

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(c) As used in this section, "farm" shall not include any farm used to grow marijuana