



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SMALL BUSINESS
HOUSING
ELDER AFFAIRS

June 29, 2011

His Excellency Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick;

I am writing to you pursuant to my obligations as Chairman of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission, created pursuant to Section 145 of Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2009.

Subsection (g) of Section 145 requires the commission to submit "its initial report to the governor, the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture not later than 2 years after the effective date" of Chapter 27, which was signed into law on June 29, 2009.

The Commission is also charged, under subsection (g), with preparing a written report detailing our findings, identified funding sources, and recommendations, including possible drafts of legislation. Based on our progress to date, I anticipate that a final report will be ready to submit to you next fall.

As you will see in this initial report, the Commission was appointed just over a year ago, and held its first meeting in May of 2010. Since then, we have met regularly in open meetings, and are approaching our many tasks and charges in a comprehensive and

thoughtful manner. We have four Working Groups tackling specific portions of our charge. We held four hearings across the State in the fall of 2010, and have received written testimony from many municipalities, residents, and other stakeholders.

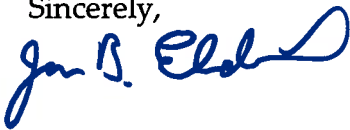
The Commission will propose a number of recommendations in the Final Report. At this time we have one recommendation for your immediate consideration. It is found on page 24 of the report, as follows:

The Commonwealth should provide funding to undertake an asset-based analysis of the gap between projected needs and revenues based on a survey of a statistically significant and regionally diverse sample of Massachusetts communities in order to provide a baseline of information to evaluate the success of efforts to meet the water infrastructure needs of the Commonwealth.

I will be contacting you and Secretary Sullivan to discuss this recommendation with you in more detail.

As a Commission, we appreciate the support of your office as well as various staff within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Mass Water Resources Authority who have been available to answer our questions and find information. We look forward to a strong, continued partnership as we move toward our final report and recommendations to you.

Sincerely,



Senator James Eldridge
State Senator
Middlesex and Worcester District

Cc:

The Honorable Therese Murray, Senate President
The Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House
Mr. Richard Sullivan, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Mr. William F. Welch, Clerk of the Senate
Mr. Stephen T. James, Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Brian S. Dempsey, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means
Mr. Stephen M. Brewer, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Ms. Anne M. Gobi, House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture
Mr. Marc R. Pacheco Senate, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture