



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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In recent months, the media has covered stories that highlight the importance of public investment in water infrastructure across the Commonwealth. The public is increasingly aware that burst or leaking pipes, water contamination, inadequate treatment, and flood waters can be major inconveniences and sometimes can lead to tragic outcomes.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Commission was established by Act of the Legislature pursuant to Section 145 of Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2009. The Commission is charged with developing a comprehensive, long range water infrastructure finance plan for the commonwealth and its municipalities. I was appointed Chair of the eighteen member Commission by Governor Patrick, and Representative Carolyn Dykema is the House appointee.

The Commission has been meeting regularly since May and will hold a series of hearings across the state, and invites local municipal officials, water department and water district officials, groups and agencies interested in water policy, environmental and consumer protection groups, professionals in the fields of water supply engineering and pricing, and other interested members of the public to participate. I encourage you to attend the public hearing and to distribute this notice to those who may be interested in attending. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

The Commission invites written and brief oral testimony on the following:

- Issues in identifying and understanding the water, waste water, and storm water infrastructure needs of the Commonwealth;
- Issues with the current and potential capacity to finance these needs;
- Recommendations on ways to meet operation, maintenance, and capital needs of municipal water systems in the Commonwealth;
- Recommendations on potential changes in local, state, and federal approaches to water infrastructure financing;
- Fair and equitable means of financing water infrastructure investments, including the role of fees, rates, taxes, loans, grants, and other financial vehicles;
- The technical and financial feasibility of sustaining public water systems, conservation and efficiency programs, wastewater systems and storm water systems of municipalities and the commonwealth;
- Potential for cost savings through consolidation, coordination, reorganization, or regionalization;
- Potential for cost savings through innovations in water technology

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Eldridge".

James Eldridge  
**State Senator**  
*Middlesex & Worcester District*

**Public Hearings of the  
Water Infrastructure Finance Commission**

**Wednesday, October 13  
10 am**

Room A-2 State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**Wednesday, October 20  
10 am**

Forbes Municipal Building  
45 West Main St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 23/24  
Westborough, MA 01581

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010  
10 am**

Main Theater, Tilden Arts Center  
Cape Cod Community College  
2240 Iyannough Road  
West Barnstable, MA 02668  
(877) 846-3672

**Monday, November 15, 2010  
10 am**

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
60 Congress Street  
Springfield, MA 01104-3419  
(413) 781-6045

Questions can be directed to Brendan Jarboe at 617-722-1120 or  
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