



Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Therese Murray
Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 330
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Water Infrastructure Finance Commission

Dear President Murray:

The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (the Coalition) represents municipalities and publicly owned wastewater, drinking water and stormwater utilities. The Coalition believes that public health, environmental protection and economic development depend on constructing and maintaining high quality utility infrastructure. **We are writing today to urge your support for overriding the Governor's veto of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission in Outside Section 145 of the FY10 State Budget.** Sound strategic and finance plans are essential for the longterm sustainability of the Commonwealth's water resource infrastructure. Outside Section 145 creates a Water Infrastructure Finance Commission dedicated to developing a comprehensive, strategic water infrastructure finance plan for the Commonwealth and its communities. The Commission would add the voices and perspectives of an array of stakeholders to the discussion, enhancing the ability of state agencies to understand and respond to community needs.

For communities, this would be a significant step toward solving water and wastewater issues faced by public utilities. An adequate municipal infrastructure is vital to providing clean potable drinking water to millions of Massachusetts residents and businesses and protecting our valuable natural resources.

The Commission is also critical to maintaining and improving the Commonwealth's global competitiveness. Massachusetts must make the necessary investments in its water infrastructure to meet the ever-changing needs of the health care, life sciences and industry and manufacturing sectors. The lack of adequate water infrastructure funding is of paramount concern to the Coalition and to communities and utilities across the nation. The American Society of Civil Engineers *Report Card for America's Infrastructure 2009* lists Massachusetts drinking water and wastewater sector needs at \$11.72 billion over the next 20 years. (<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/index>) Clearly, this issue must be addressed now.

In almost every area of the country, the water infrastructure sector shows signs of distress. Funding that might otherwise be spent on operations and maintenance is being diverted to comply with increasingly stringent environmental regulations dictated by federal and state agencies. In addition, meeting community needs and demands for other basic services creates increased competition for scarce local



dollars. The resulting deferred maintenance leads to infrastructure failures that put public health at risk, jeopardize environmental progress made since the Clean Water Act was passed and result in more cost for communities and homeowners in the long-run. The lack of adequate infrastructure also puts communities at risk of losing businesses and jobs because they cannot provide the cost-effective services expected and necessary for economic development.

By overriding the Governor's veto of Outside Section 145, the Legislature will be investing in a Commission whose analysis is vital for the future of communities, businesses and the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 508-799-1430 or at MoylanR@ci.worcester.ma.us.

Sincerely,

MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR WATER RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Robert L. Moylan, Jr.', is placed below the typed name.

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E., President
Commissioner, Department of Public Works and Parks
City of Worcester
20 East Worcester Street
Worcester, MA 01604

Cc: Governor Deval Patrick
Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray
Senator Steven Panagiotakos
Representative Robert A. DeLeo
Representative Charles Murphy