



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

December 9, 2013

The Honorable Anne Gobi, House Chairwoman
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 473F

The Honorable Marc Pacheco, Senate Chairman
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Room 312B

Re: H. 3332, Environmental Bond Bill

Dear Chairwoman Gobi and Chairman Pacheco,

I understand that H. 3332, "*An Act providing for the preservation and improvement of land, parks, and clean energy in the Commonwealth*", also known as the Environmental Bond Bill, is currently before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

As you may know, my district includes The Esplanade, Magazine Beach, and other active parklands along the Charles River. These spaces are not only important for my constituents, but are also enjoyed by all residents of the Commonwealth. Indeed, millions of people visit these spaces to enjoy their beauty each year.

The Environmental Bond bill provides a great opportunity to enhance these important spaces to improve our Commonwealth. Specifically, these spaces may be greatly enhanced for the enjoyment of all by including underpasses on the pathways on the Boston side, bike paths along Memorial Drive, and swimming (for the first time since the 1950's) in the Charles River. It is also essential to make sure Department of Conservation and Recreation has the necessary capital funds to further the mission of active parklands. Providing the funding and authorizations contained in the language below will accomplish these important goals.

I ask you to consider adding the following language in the Environmental Bond Bill:

1. For investment in water quality and overall river health, as well as river sediment quality and river sediment mitigation, pursuant to the Clean Charles River Initiative and to

provide for appropriate research and collection of data to support investment in environmental assets and the furthering of swimming\$6,000,000

2. For the planning, design and construction, to further the enhancement of greenways, multi-modal pathways, multi-use trails such as the Dr. Paul Dudley Pathway, connecting the underpasses at the Anderson, Western Av, and River Street bridges in Boston, and pursuant to the required mode shift goals of MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Directive\$7,000,000

3. For the planning, design and construction of recreational facilities in the Charles River, in particular for swimming platforms and related facilities.\$10,000.000

4. For the completion of planning, design and construction of the Phase II of the Historic Parkways Initiative, along the Memorial Drive between the Longfellow Bridge and the BU Bridge, to create improved pedestrian pathways, create new bike paths, and improve the landscaping. This project fulfills MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Directive.\$32,000.000

5. To minimize the cost and disruption for the public, the environmental and preservation permitting for the bridge underpasses at the Anderson memorial, Western Av. and River Street Bridges and the connections to the Dr. Paul Dudley White pathway must be allowed to occur in an accelerated fashion. All permitting requests to agencies (MEPA, DCR, DEP, MHC, Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard) must be adjudicated within 60 days. This clause is effective as of January 1, 2014.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Livingstone
State Representative
8th Suffolk District

- CC: Senator Will Brownsberger
- Senator Sal DiDomenico
- Senator Anthony Petrucci
- Secretary of Transportation Richard Davey
- Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Richard Sullivan
- Commissioner Jack Murray, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Renata von Tscharnher, President, the Charles River Conservancy