



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

The Honorable Maura Healey
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Cc: Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz, Executive Office of Administration and Finance
Commissioner Douglas Rice, Department of Conservation & Recreation

February 16, 2023

Dear Governor Healey,

We represent 21 communities and over 600,000 residents in the Mystic River Watershed located on the north side of Boston Harbor. Our communities host the highest concentration of critical infrastructure and the largest environmental justice population in New England.

We are writing to you today to request your assistance in **programming into this year's capital plan** funding for local climate resilience projects earmarked in the Massachusetts Transportation and Climate (MassTRAC) legislation signed into law on August 10, 2022. These funds will **leverage over \$70 million in federal funding** to protect Greater Boston's infrastructure, residents, and businesses from coastal flooding.

Our municipalities have been working together since 2018 to identify, prioritize, and design regional climate resilient projects to prepare communities for extreme weather. They quickly identified regional infrastructure as a top concern, especially after seeing hurricane damage in New York and elsewhere.

Over the past two years, our municipalities worked with the Department of Homeland Security, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and 13 public and private infrastructure facilities, consultants, and community based organizations to better understand 1) cascading impacts of a major coastal storm hitting critical transportation, water, food, energy, and dam infrastructure, and 2) how infrastructure damage could harm our most vulnerable residents and workers.

Three of the projects that ranked highest in this regional climate assessment are ready to seek capital funds. They are:

- **The Amelia Earhart Dam and adjacent Draw 7 Park, both owned by Mass DCR:** engineering studies have found that the dam and adjacent park need to be elevated four feet to prevent coastal flood damage to upstream communities. Co-benefits include multi-modal transit connections between a new pedestrian bridge and the Assembly Row and a living shoreline. Elevating the dam is projected to cost approximately \$31 million; elevating and renovating Draw 7 cost is projected to cost \$13 million. We will apply for federal grants to cover approximately 50% of these costs. **Current year request: Please fund the draft Mass DCR capital budget for the Amelia Earhart Dam and Draw 7 Park as submitted.**
- **Island End River:** Forming the border between Everett and Chelsea, the Island End River represents a major flood pathway that already threatens the New England Produce center and other regional food distribution businesses. Co-benefits include a new river walk, restored wetland, and daylighting of formerly culverted sections of the river. Completing this project will cost \$50 million in federal grants and \$16.7 million in state funding to be used by the Cities of Everett and Chelsea. **Current year request: \$400,000 to match nearly \$4 million in secured grants to bring the project to the point of construction.**

We have a rare opportunity to make substantial progress in protecting our people and places from coastal flood damage for an estimated fifty more years. We are making this request as a regional delegation, as these resources are essential not just to our constituents, but to Greater Boston's residents, economy, and culture. Attached are fact sheets with more information on these critical projects.

Sincerely,



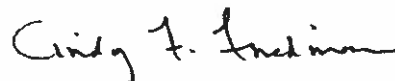
Senator Sal DiDomenico



Senator Pat Jehlen



Senator Will Brownsberger



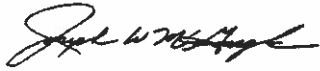
Senator Cindy Friedman



Senator Lydia Edwards



Senator Jason Lewis



Representative Joseph McGonagle



Representative Dan Ryan



Representative Christine Barber



Representative Bradley Jones



Representative Mike Connolly



Representative Adrian Madaro



Representative Michael Day



Representative Steven Owens



Representative Marjorie Decker



Representative Dave Rogers



Representative Paul Donato



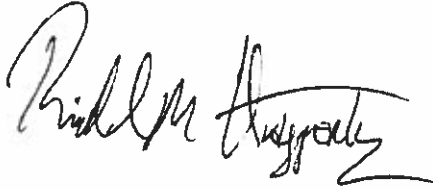
Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian



Representative Sean Garballey



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Representative Erika Uytterhoeven



Representative Judith Garcia



Representative Jessica Ann Giannino



Representative Jeffrey Turco