



115 Pleasant Street
Room 201
Gardner, MA 01440

May 10, 2007

Senator Harriette L. Chandler, Chair; and
Representative Anthony W. Petrocelli
Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business
State House, Room 26
Boston, MA 02133

Subject: **S. 146 and H. 159 (Proposed Chapter 40T)**

Dear Senator Chandler and Representative Petrocelli:

On June 11th, your Committee will be holding a public hearing on S. 146 and H. 159. The bills are identical and would establish Chapter 40T as an amendment to the General Laws. We urge the Committee to report favorably on the legislation.

The Massachusetts Economic Development Council (MEDC) strongly supports the proposed legislation. MEDC is the professional association of economic development practitioners serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Established in 1963, the Council provides an opportunity for professional development through Council Committees, programs, and has as its primary objective the promotion and development of the economic welfare of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through industrial and economic development. MEDC has approximately 80 members located throughout the Commonwealth. A membership list is attached.

In our various practices, we use a variety of financing tools to help implement local development projects. We know that economic development professionals in other states are able to use special assessment financing to fund infrastructure costs. We believe that Massachusetts will continue to be at a competitive disadvantage with other states if the legislation is not adopted. We especially appreciate the fact that the proposed Chapter 40T is a local option of both the property owners benefiting and paying for improvements and the local municipality. Another key feature is that Chapter 40T can be coupled with District Improvement Financing (Chapter 40Q) to provide a very powerful tool for economic development.

At a MEDC meeting on April 25, 2007, the membership voted unanimously to support the 40T legislation and we urge the Committee to report favorably on the legislation. A number of our members have projects that are in limbo pending its passage.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hubbard, President