

NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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June 8, 2007

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

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

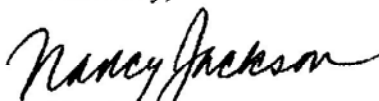
Dear Senator Chandler and Representative Petrucci:

The North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation strongly supports the proposed legislation to establish Chapter 40T as an amendment to the General Laws. As a partner in the newly formed North Central Massachusetts Economic Development Council, we have created a regional economic development strategy and take primary responsibility for its implementation. The Council represents a 26-community region including the three cities of Fitchburg, Gardner, and Leominster and the surrounding small towns, many rural in character. Infrastructure limitations are a major impediment to growth and attracting new investment to our region. The region's economy is reliant on the manufacturing sector, with one of every four private jobs and one of every three dollars in wages provided by a manufacturing establishment. Although we have well over 850 open, available acres currently zoned for industrial use, new development is hampered by insufficient infrastructure.

While existing state programs and infrastructure development tools may be valuable in certain circumstances, they do not apply to many of the challenges we face in our region. 40T presents a new alternative as 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.

We represent a unique region of the state in which people live where they work and work where they live. Job growth is our economic development imperative and that job growth is dependent on real estate investment. We cannot reach our goals if we remain at a competitive disadvantage relative to the more developed communities in the eastern part of the state, therefore, we urge the Committee to report favorably on the legislation.

Sincerely,



Nancy Jackson
Vice President of Development