



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

January 18, 2024

Senator Lydia Edwards, Chair
Joint Committee on Housing
24 Beacon St.
Room 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Ed Kennedy, Chair
Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures
and State Assets
Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133

Representative James Arciero, Chair
Joint Committee on Housing
24 Beacon St.
Room 146
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Michael Finn, Chair
Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures
and State Assets
Room 42
Boston, MA 02133

Sent via email; regarding consideration of the Affordable Homes Act

Chairs Arciero, Edwards, Finn, and Kennedy:

Thank you for your work and service to the Commonwealth.

As you know, the Housing Bond Bill before you for consideration represents a generational opportunity to address the affordable housing and shelter crisis in the Commonwealth.

As legislators representing the four western Massachusetts counties, we have had the opportunity to hear directly from housing experts and advocates in our region — urban and rural, for profit and nonprofit developers, shelter providers — who have taken the time to discuss and unite around their priorities for this legislation.

These individuals are members of two separate but related organizations, the [Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition](#) (WMHC) and the [Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness](#). Together, they represent over 150 community-based organizations, human service organizations, community development corporations, planning agencies, municipalities, and more, serving every corner of our region.

Chairs, both of you have taken the time to travel to western Massachusetts so you already know that **our needs, assets, and opportunities differ from those in the eastern part of the state**. You know about our region's ability to stretch a dollar to care for those in need. You know that our constituents are scrappy, collaborative, and hungry to build affordable housing. You know that we need budget and policy solutions that work for our communities.

Please take a moment to review the top priorities of the people and organizations we serve. [Just click here](#). By sending these to you, we endorse them, and ask for your strong consideration as you review the Governor's *Affordable Homes Act*. [For more detail and context, please click here](#).

We look forward to partnering with you on this legislation and are eager to discuss any of these provisions at your convenience.

Sending our warmest regards,

Carlos González
Representative, 10th Hampden

Jo Comerford
Senator, Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester

Lindsay Sabadosa
Representative, 1st Hampshire

Susannah Whipps
Representative, 2nd Franklin

Brian M. Ashe
Representative, 2nd Hampden

Natalie M. Blais
Representative, 1st Franklin

Adam Gómez
Senator, Hampden

Patricia Duffy
Representative, 5th Hampden

Jacob R. Oliveira
Senator, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester

Ryan Fattman
Senator, Worcester & Hampden

Aaron Saunders
Representative, 7th Hampden

Mindy Domb
Representative, 3rd Hampshire

Bud Williams
Representative, 11th Hampden

Kelly Pease
Representative, 4th Hampden

Daniel R. Carey
Representative, 2nd Hampshire

Shirley Arriaga
Representative, 8th Hampden

cc:

Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll
Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Edward Augustus
Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi
Senate President Karen Spilka
House Speaker Ron Mariano
Senate Ways and Means Chair Michael Rodrigues
House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz