



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL A. SCHMID III

8th Bristol District

State House, Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133

Tel: 617-722-2210

Paul.Schmid@mahouse.gov

Chair, Joint Committee on Agriculture

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House Committee on Ways and Means, Chair
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Boston, MA 02133

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Rm. 34, State House
Boston, MA 02133

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Boston, MA 02133

Senator Susan Moran

Rm. 312-D, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Bruce Tarr

Rm. 308, State House
Boston, MA 02133

July 6, 2023

Dear Honorable Conferees:

We, the undersigned, write to you regarding H.3706/S.2406, *An Act to improve the Commonwealth's competitiveness, affordability, and equity*, currently before this conference committee.

We are encouraged by provisions within S.2406, Sections 10-14, amending the Septic System Tax Credit (M.G.L c. 62, § 6(i)) and request they be included in the Conference Committee's final report. This language reflects more accurately the cost of septic system design and installation today, given the current language was enacted 30 years ago.

As you know, the regions of the state we represent is potentially subject to widespread mandatory septic system and cesspool updates from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulations in the coming years. Our constituents are notably concerned on the financial impact these regulations might have and we feel this expansion of the tax credit could assist our communities combat this massive overhaul.

The language we wish to see included makes changes to Chapter 62, Section 6(i):

- Increases the % of design and construction cost for upgrades or replacements of failed

cesspools and other septic systems eligible for the credit from 40% to 60%;

- Deletes the current statute's reference to the 1995 Title 5 regulations and inserts "the State Environmental Code;"
- Increases the maximum system upgrade cost eligible for a rebate from \$15,000 to \$30,000;
- Increases the maximum annual credit from \$1,500 to \$4,000; and
- Increases the maximum amount of credit carryover over a 5-year period from \$6,000 to \$18,000.

We respectfully ask for your consideration of these comments, please contact our office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul Schmid
State Representative
8th Bristol

Christopher Flanagan
State Representative
1st Barnstable

Carol Doherty
State Representative
3rd Bristol

David Vieira
State Representative
3rd Barnstable

Susan Williams Gifford
State Representative
2nd Plymouth

Steven Howitt
State Representative
4th Bristol

Kathleen LaNatra
State Representative
12th Plymouth

Jim Hawkins
State Representative
2nd Bristol