



March 15, 2018

Chairman Jeffrey Sanchez
House Committee on Ways and Means
The State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Sanchez and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to convey support on behalf of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable for H.4290, An Act to Promote Housing Choices.

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is a public policy organization comprised of CEOs and senior executives from some of the state's largest employers. Roundtable members collectively employ more than 250,000 people across the Commonwealth. Our mission is to strengthen the state's long term economic vitality with the goal of making Massachusetts a highly desirable place to do business. To achieve that mission and goal, the Roundtable focuses on a variety of public issues identified by our members as priorities. Key among those is housing, which the Roundtable sees as an economic development issue and integral component of a comprehensive and integrated economic development strategy.

Partnering with the University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Collaborative Leadership, the Roundtable conducted a report looking at the intersection of housing, transportation and workforce. One of the key findings of that report was increasing collaboration with local and municipal government to "provide the interconnected growth strategy necessary for economic growth and job creation." In fact, one of the recommendations was to "continue enhancing existing housing policies to provide incentives to cities and towns" and "keeping pressure on the state and its local communities to ensure sufficient housing at an affordable price." H.4290 does just that, and is a key component of Governor Baker's Housing Choice Initiative, which seeks to increase housing stock to meet the overwhelming demand of a growing economy.

Our report concluded that "In order to maximize economic growth and increase talent retention, the Commonwealth needs to continue to develop and enhance public policies to improve its transportation infrastructure and the affordability of housing as these key factors influence the retention of talented workers in Massachusetts." The Housing Choice Initiative is an important step in the Commonwealth's pursuit of that strategy and the Roundtable respectfully urges the Committee's favorable review of H.4290.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hogan, CEO, A.D. Makepeace Company
Immediate Past Chair, Executive Committee Member

JD Chesloff
Executive Director

cc: Representative Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House
Representative Ronald Mariano, House Majority Leader
Representative Kevin Honan, Chair, House Committee on Housing
Representative Stephen Kulik, Vice Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means