

Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

February 28, 2024

Representative Jeffrey N. Roy
Massachusetts House of Representatives
25 Beacon Street
State House Room 43
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Rebecca L. Rausch
Massachusetts State Senate
24 Beacon Street
State House Room 215
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Roy and Senator Rausch,

We are writing to wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support Governor Healey's bill entitled **An Act empowering municipalities and local governments**, also known as The Municipal Empowerment Act. Provisions throughout The Municipal Empowerment Act aim to increase efficiency and effectiveness for Massachusetts' municipalities and are a direct result of advocacy from local municipal leaders, including Franklin.

The proposed changes to state programs and rules contained in the Municipal Empowerment Act are logical and will make it easier for both local and state governments to work together on behalf of Massachusetts residents. In addition to assisting local government from several administrative burdens, The Municipal Empowerment Act reforms procurement rules that raise thresholds for competitive bids, enables communities, through local option, to increase local meals and lodging taxes, to name a few.

Like many cities and towns across the Commonwealth, Franklin is facing cost increases that far outpace the growth of our yearly revenue. Providing the Town with options to raise additional revenue locally will be instrumental as we seek to strengthen our financial acumen.

As municipal leaders committed to helping our residents and providing options to combat cuts to local services, we respectfully request your support for the Municipal Empowerment Act. As communities across the Commonwealth feel the real-time consequences of budget constraints, it is more important than ever that the Massachusetts State Senate and Massachusetts House of Representatives support local leaders and advance this legislation quickly and favorably.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of the Municipal Empowerment Act. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Mercer, Chairman
Town Council

Robert Dellorco, Vice Chairman
Town Council



Glenn Jones, Clerk
Town Council



Melanie Hamblen
Town Council



Cobi Frongillo
Town Council



Ted Cormier-Leger
Town Council



Jamie Hellen
Town Administrator

Cc: Governor Maula Healey
Lt. Governor, Kim Driscoll



Deborah Pellegrini
Town Council

Brian Chandler
Town Council



Patrick Sheridan
Town Council



Amy Frigulietti
Deputy Town Administrator