

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 7, 2011

Sen. Mark R. Pacheco
Room 312B
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Anne M. Gobi
Room 473F
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Subject: Bill H.1144, An Act Relative to Groundwater Recharge

Dear Senator Pacheco and Representative Gobi:

I am writing in support of Bill H.1144. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the City where the integrity of building foundations is threatened by low groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. We are members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group and are signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding that established it.

The purpose of the bill is to redirect funds that were originally appropriated to the City of Boston to the MBTA. The funds are to be combined with a larger amount that has been set aside by the MBTA in its Capital Improvement Plan to fund a pilot project to address a persistent low groundwater problem in a part of Boston's South End neighborhood near Back Bay Station. The Bill includes language that will assure that the funds are directed to the solution of the problem, requiring the MBTA to consult with agencies of the Commonwealth and the City as well as the Trust. Design of the long term solution to the problem is to be one of the first projects under the Tunnel Repair Design Contract recently signed by the MBTA.

I urge you to recommend approval of this important legislation.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Rep. Aaron Michlewitz
Rep. Byron Rushing
Rep. Marty Walz