

The logo for the Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network. It features a light blue outline of the state of Massachusetts in the background. Overlaid on this is the text "MASSACHUSETTS CHAMBERS" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, and "POLICY NETWORK" in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font below it.

MASSACHUSETTS CHAMBERS
POLICY NETWORK

August 22, 2024

Representative Ronald Mariano, Speaker
Massachusetts House of Representatives
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Karen Spilka, President
Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network, we write to urge the Legislature to pass critical elements of this session's economic development bill as soon as possible. We believe the timely investments and policy support for key industries as well as the state's overall efforts to spur economic development and create jobs in H.4804 and S.2869 are crucial to the Commonwealth's continued economic success.

There is substantial overlap and agreement on important programs in both H.4804 and S.2869, such as the Massachusetts life sciences reauthorization, tourism, artificial intelligence, scientific research, manufacturing, the MassWorks program, the Mass Impact program, brownfields development, seaports, the economic development incentive program, climate technology, and permit tolling, among many others. These programs, many of which provide basic infrastructure support for job growth, are foundational to retaining the Commonwealth's competitive edge as other cities and states seek to attract jobs and talent. Importantly, most of these programs drive impact statewide, benefiting people and businesses from the Berkshires to Cape Cod.

While each of our Chambers have specific priorities and concerns in these bills, failure to advance the basic elements of the state's economic development approach will hurt the Commonwealth's competitiveness and reputation of effective and responsive policymaking. A narrow bill that focuses on the fundamentals is a significant accomplishment, and we urge the House and Senate to recognize the many similarities and bold policy choices common in both legislative approaches and that have the support of the Healey/Driscoll Administration.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns, and we appreciate both the House's and Senate's leadership in ensuring the Commonwealth's economic wellbeing.

Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network

James E. Rooney, President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Tim Murray, President & CEO, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
Diana Szyal, President, Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce
Rick Sullivan, President & CEO, Western MA Economic Development Council
Karen Andreas, President & CEO, North Shore Chamber of Commerce
Peter Forman, President & CEO, South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Greg Reibman, President, Charles River Regional Chamber
Michael O'Sullivan, CEO, One SouthCoast Chamber
Jonathan Butler, President & CEO, 1Berkshire
Paul Niedzwiecki, CEO, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce



About the Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network

The Massachusetts Chambers of Commerce Policy Network (the “Chambers Policy Network”) is a group of large regional chambers of commerce representing over ten-thousand-member employers and millions of workers and customers across the entire state Massachusetts. Using its united and collective voice on behalf of the business community, the Chambers Policy Network advocates for public policy solutions that will strengthen the quality of life and economy in all regions of the Commonwealth.