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TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 15, 2013

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act Supplementing Certain Existing Capital Spending Authorizations".

Additional authorization before the beginning of fiscal year 2014 is imminently needed to ensure that ongoing IT projects will not cease and facility improvement projects are not further deferred. Supplemental capital funding will ensure the continuation of these critical projects and programs to Commonwealth.

Last October, my administration published our sixth capital investment plan, which presented a responsible capital investment strategy for fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2017. In order to provide for continued investment in our Commonwealth's infrastructure and innovation economy, I am filing a series of bond bills, in addition to this bill, to support this plan's future funding needs through fiscal year 2017. However, it is worth noting that this bill provides a quick infusion of authorization through fiscal year 2014 for authorizations which soon will be depleted.

The citizens of the Commonwealth have asked for and deserve public infrastructure which will meet their needs, create jobs and stimulate economic growth in every corner of our state. Targeted investment in our infrastructure solidifies the foundation of our Commonwealth for future generations. By investing in essential government functions, we create a more effective and efficient government. Investment in information technology will ensure our 21st Century citizens are served by a 21st Century government.

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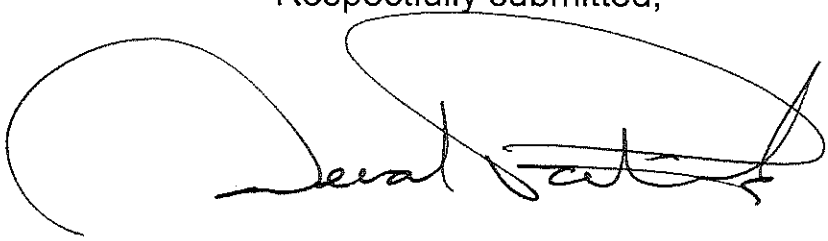
Specifically, this bill continues funding for the following:

- $175 million to continue state facility deferred maintenance and energy projects, and

- $200 million for information technology projects including funding for the development of Health Insurance Exchange/Integrated Eligibility System platform in MassHealth to accommodate utilization for eligibility determination for all EHS and potentially non-EHS agencies.

Investments will be made within the my Administration's debt affordability policy, which has allowed an unprecedented level of capital investment in the Commonwealth while maintaining the highest bond rating in the state's history.

In light of the urgent need to continue funding these improvements, I urge immediate action to enact this bill.

Respectfully submitted,