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March 15, 2013

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act Financing Information Technology Equipment and Related Projects".

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.

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 investments 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.

This bill includes funding for IT and innovation projects in my Administration's five-year capital investment plan, including:

- $40 million for the Last Mile Broadband Project which will more adequately equip residents and businesses to compete in the 21st Century global economy by bringing broadband internet access to areas of the Commonwealth currently without high-speed internet access.

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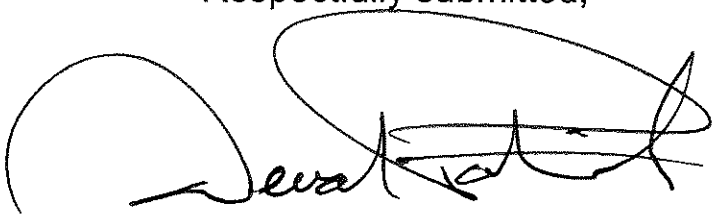
- $449 million for information technology projects including building on the Commonwealth's successful public safety information systems network modernization and Health Insurance Exchange to promote health care cost containment,

- $280 million for self-supporting information technology projects which will be funded through savings or revenue created by these projects, and

- $100 million for information technology projects for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, including replacement of the Registry of Motor Vehicle's Automatic License & Registration System (ALARS) which was initially deployed in 1986.

These investments will be made within 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 prompt action to enact this bill.

Respectfully submitted,