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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 Providing for Capital Facility Repairs and Improvements for the 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.

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.

This bill includes funding for state facilities, libraries, vocational schools and public safety infrastructure included in my Administration's five-year capital investment plan, including:

- $300 million for health and human services state facility projects, including improvements to soldiers homes, state hospitals, and department of youth services facilities,

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- $375 million for general state facility improvements, including funding for deferred maintenance, state facilities accessibility, and public safety, energy and environment and other non-human service facility needs,
- $55 million for public safety needs at the Executive Office of Public Safety, including funding for police cruisers, public safety equipment, and state police use of an automated motor vehicle citation system,
- $150 million for the library construction grant program, and
- $48 million for municipal infrastructure and equipment grants including the vocational school equipment grant program and equipping municipal police vehicles with technology to issue electronic traffic citations.

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,