



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

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October 5, 2011

The Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 405
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Eugene L. O'Flaherty, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Creem and Chairman O'Flaherty,

I write to you in support of House 11, An Act Relative to Public Procurement. This bill would add another tool in the fight against public procurement fraud. In the current economic climate it is important that there are deterrents to committing fraud and that there are strong penalties when it is committed.

This legislation is similar to the federal Closing the Contractor Fraud Loophole Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252, 122 STAT. 2386. This bill amends the false statements in public procurement statute, M.G.L. c. 266, §67A, to require that when a violation of criminal law occurs relating to procurement of supplies, services or construction, a vendor must notify the awarding authority within 30 days of its discovery of such occurrence. The legislation would also require a vendor to notify the awarding authority within 30 days if it discovers it received an overpayment. A violation of this statute would be punished by up to a \$10,000 fine or imprisonment of up to five years.

I urge you to report House 11 out of your committee favorably. This is a common sense approach to protecting the interests of the taxpayers. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan".

Gregory W. Sullivan
Inspector General