ATTACHMENT D

December 11, 2020

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Sections 69 and 116 of House Bill No. 5164, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2021 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 69 proposes to end the tolling period for municipal permitting activities that was established earlier this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on February 1, 2021. Currently, the tolling period ended on December 1, 2020 under legislation that was enacted last month. I understand that some municipalities could use additional time, however, the tolling period should not be extended for a longer time than is necessary. As a result, I am proposing changes to extend the end date from December 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020 to coincide with the end of the calendar year.

For these reasons, I recommend that Sections 69 and 116 be amended by striking out the sections and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:-

SECTION 69. Paragraph (ii) of subsection (b) of section 17 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended by striking out the words “December 1, 2020”, as appearing in section 33 of chapter 201 of the acts of 2020, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- December 31, 2020.

SECTION 116. Section 69 shall take effect on December 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor