ATTACHMENT O

July 16, 2021

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 116 and 117 of House Bill No. 4002, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 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.”

Sections 116 and 117 require that grants allocated to Regional Tourism Councils through the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2022 be distributed not later than September 1, 2021 for funds received from room occupancy taxes and not later than November 15, 2021 for the remainder of amounts received from gaming revenue.

I strongly support the tourism industry in the Commonwealth and understand the goal of the sections. However, the distribution dates set forth conflict with the transfer schedule utilized for such distributions, which provides for quarterly distributions. As a result, I am proposing changes that adjust each distribution deadline to correspond with the end of the next quarter.

For these reasons, I recommend that Sections 116 and 117 be amended by striking out the sections and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:-

SECTION 116. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, grants from the amounts collected pursuant to subsection (a) of section 13T of chapter 23A of the General Laws allocated to regional tourism councils pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection (d) of said section 13T for fiscal year 2022 shall be distributed no later than September 30, 2021 pursuant to a transfer schedule determined by the executive office for administration and finance.

SECTION 117. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, grants from the amounts collected pursuant to subsection (b) of section 13T of chapter 23A of the General Laws allocated to regional tourism councils pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection (d) of said section 13T for fiscal year 2021 shall be distributed no later than December 30, 2021 pursuant to a transfer schedule determined by the executive office for administration and finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor