ATTACHMENT P

July 28, 2022

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 117 and 118 of House Bill No. 5050, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 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 117 and 118 would extend the commission designed to report and make recommendations on a possible amendment to the United States Constitution regarding the Supreme Court’s 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The commission was enacted through a ballot initiative in 2018, and these sections would extend the commission until December 31, 2025. However, as drafted, the sections do not provide any deadline by which the commission shall file a report on its recommendations. The sections also contain language that create unreasonable requirements regarding the appointments of members to the commission. I find these requirements unnecessary and believe the named public officials will make their appointments without them, as demonstrated by the many other appointments they have made to numerous commissions and task forces when required.

As a result, I recommend an amendment that would provide a date by which the commission’s recommendations shall be finalized and to eliminate the appointment requirements proposed in the sections.

For these reasons, I recommend that the bill be amended by striking out Sections 117 and 118 and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sections:-

SECTION 117. Subsection c. of section 1 of chapter 322 of the acts of 2018 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The Citizens Commission shall continue to exist and perform the responsibilities required in this section until December 31, 2025. The commission shall file its recommendations pursuant to subsection b) of section 4.

SECTION 118. Subsection b) of section 4 of said chapter 322 is hereby amended by striking out the word “first”.

SECTION 118A. Said subsection b) of said section 4 of said chapter 322 is hereby amended by striking out the figure “2019” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

Governor