ATTACHMENT S

July 8, 2016

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, I am returning to you for amendment Section 186 of House Bill No. 4450, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2017 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 186 requires the Registry of Motor Vehicles, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to offer annual and senior park passes for purchase, and requires DCR to investigate alternative methods to expand the sales of such passes. I support the intent of this section to expand sales of park passes through the Registry.

However, DCR, with approval of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, recently set a new fee schedule for annual MassParks passes, and, effective March 2015, set a new, one-time fee of $10 for a lifetime Senior MassParks Pass for Massachusetts residents 62 years or older. I see no need to offer further discounts on MassParks passes that are sold at the Registry.

For this reason, I recommend that Section 186 be amended by striking out, in lines 1653-54, the words “a discounted annual MassParks pass or senior MassParks pass to cover fees for day use admission, and parking for 1 calendar year”, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- annual MassParks passes or senior MassParks passes to cover parking fees.

Respectfully submitted,