



Chairman Nick Collins
Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
24 Beacon St., Room 312-D
Boston, MA 02133

Chairwoman Danielle Gregoire
House Ways and Means Committee
24 Beacon St., Room 21
Boston, MA 02133

June 1, 2022

Dear Chairs Collins and Gregoire,

We are writing to you today to request your assistance in securing **\$38.2 million in non-federal match to unlock at least \$72.5 million in federal funding** to protect Greater Boston's infrastructure, residents, and businesses from coastal flooding. We represent 21 communities and over 600,000 residents in the Mystic River Watershed located on the north side of Boston Harbor. Our communities host the highest concentration of critical infrastructure and the largest environmental justice population in New England.

Our municipalities have been working together since 2018 to identify, prioritize, and design regional climate resilient projects to prepare communities for extreme weather. They quickly identified regional infrastructure as a top concern, especially after seeing hurricane damage in New York and elsewhere.

Over the past two years, our municipalities worked with the Department of Homeland Security, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and 13 public and private infrastructure facilities, consultants, and community based organizations to better understand 1) cascading impacts of a major coastal storm hitting critical transportation, water, food, energy, and dam infrastructure, and 2) how infrastructure damage could harm our most vulnerable residents and workers.

Three of the projects that ranked highest in this regional climate assessment are ready to seek capital funds. **A total of \$38.2 million in state funds allocated through the final version of H.4561, An Act relative to Massachusetts's transportation resources and climate, will unlock \$72.5 million in federal matching grants.** They are:

- The **Amelia Earhart Dam and Draw 7 Park**: engineering studies have found that the dam and adjacent park need to be elevated four feet to prevent coastal flood damage to upstream communities. Co-benefits include multi-modal transit

connections between a new pedestrian bridge and the Assembly Row and a living shoreline. **Cost: \$22.5 million in federal grants, \$21.5 million in state funding to be used by Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- **Island End River:** Forming the border between Everett and Chelsea, the Island End River represents a major flood pathway that already threatens the New England Produce center and other regional food distribution businesses. Co-benefits include a new river walk, restored wetland, and daylighting of formerly culverted sections of the river. **Cost: \$50 million in federal grants, \$16.7 million in state funding to be used by the Cities of Everett and Chelsea**

We have a rare opportunity to make substantial progress in protecting our people and places from coastal flood damage for an estimated fifty more years. We are making this request as a regional delegation, as these resources are essential not just to our constituents, but to Greater Boston's residents, economy, and culture. Attached are fact sheets with more information on these critical projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Herron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Herron
Executive Director