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To: execsec@chilmarkma.gov
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Suburban Coalition

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Suburban Coalition Working for Every Community

On Tuesday, May 21, the Senate will be debating the budget. Addressing transportation infrastructure issues remains a top priority for the FY14 budget. In addition, the Senate W&M proposal increases funding for Charter School reimbursement, an important line item for mayors and other municipal officials, beyond the House proposal and fully funds the Special Education Circuit Breaker. It increases Chapter 70 Aid over the House number, but not as high as the Governor's number. Information about the Senate Ways & Means proposal can be found on the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center website at:

http://www.massbudget.org/report_window.php?loc=budget_monitor_swm_fy14.php&utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=budget

Also on May 21, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will be holding a Legislative Advocacy Day at the State House. Suburban Coalition members are invited to attend. Beginning at 9AM, materials on MASC's legislative priorities will be available in Nurse's Hall for attendees to have as they visit their local legislators. Information about the MASC Legislative Priorities can be found at the following link:

http://www.masc.org/images/stories/events/legislative_priorities_2013_-_webinar_slides.pdf

As a companion to the addressing the transportation issue, the House and Senate have both approved a bond authorization for Chapter 90 funding in FY14 which represents a \$100 million increase in the reimbursement program. The actual funding amount, however, depends on the final amount of the Transportation finance bills currently being debated. The final amount could be substantially less. Funding for Chapter 90 continues to be a major concern for local officials. In addition to the amount available, the timing of funds becoming available is an issue. Local officials need to be able to plan projects, go out to bid and have time to complete the projects during the "construction season". When the release of funds is delayed, municipalities have less time to plan and execute needed projects.

The Suburban Coalition is a statewide organization of local officials that advocates for the resources, funding and support at the state level to sustain vibrant communities throughout the Commonwealth. We work to ensure that every municipality has the resources to provide high-quality essential services of life safety, education and infrastructure maintenance to its citizens. We provide input to the state about local services, state funding and state regulations. By speaking with one voice, we can address mutual problems more effectively at the state level. The Suburban Coalition is the only statewide organization that brings together Selectmen, School Committees and Finance Committees and other local officials to jointly advocate for our communities. For more information, visit www.suburbancoalition.org

Sincerely,

Dorothy Presser
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