



**THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO  
*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

June 24, 2022

The Honorable Nick Collins  
Senate Chair  
Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital  
Expenditures and State Assets  
State House, Room 312-D  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Danielle W. Gregoire  
House Chair  
Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital  
Expenditures and State Assets  
State House, Room 21  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Collins, Chair Gregoire and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter as testimony in support of Governor Charles Baker's legislation – H. 4864: An Act Investing in Future Opportunities for Resiliency, Workforce, and Revitalized Downtowns (FORWARD).

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected many communities throughout the Commonwealth and across our Nation. To help offset these challenges and provide much-needed relief to our residents and business community as possible, my administration has begun to utilize our local allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. To date, my administration has awarded five (5) rounds of ARPA funding for small businesses, nonprofits, neighborhood councils and local programs and initiatives totaling over \$47.3 million, with additional funding scheduled to be awarded in the near future, but we cannot do this alone.

It is imperative for the Commonwealth to seize this opportunity to utilize the state allocation of federal money and capital spending authorizations to help our local municipalities recover from the economic challenges of the pandemic. Governor Baker's legislation, H.4864, which is currently pending before your committee, would help address many of our local and regional projects and create a good four-letter word – JOBS.

Time is of the essence. Per federal law, ARPA funding must be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. You must be cognizant that with material and supply chain challenges, the escalating costs of doing business and project planning demands - the clock is ticking. The

last thing you want to tell your constituents in your districts is that the federal government clawed back the money.

Like many municipalities throughout our Commonwealth, the City of Springfield was pleased that the State Legislature took the first step in this process by passing Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021.

Our residents, businesses and nonprofits need this relief now and passage of H. 4864 would help alleviate the challenges every municipality is facing as result of the pandemic.

Thank you for your time and for your continued efforts and leadership on behalf of the City of Springfield and the Commonwealth.

Respectfully,



Domenic J. Sarno  
Mayor

*"Good health & God-Bless."*

cc: Springfield State Delegation  
Governor Charlie Baker  
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito  
Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development