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Helping
Neighbors*

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November 9, 2021

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
Chairman, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 212
24 Beacon Street
Boston MA 02133

To the Chair:

Since 1922, the Beacon Hill Civic Association (“BHCA”) has worked to preserve and enhance the quality of residential life on Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. Integral to our mission is strengthening civic engagement and equitable access to public assets in the City of Boston, including the public assets present on the nearby Esplanade. Following up on our letter of March 27, 2020, in which we supported an earlier version of this legislation, we are writing to reaffirm our support for the proposed Charlesbank Landing and Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion project (“Project”) and its enabling legislation, Senate Bill 2041, that is currently pending before your Committee.

We congratulate the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Commonwealth for removing the Lee Pool and preparing the site for future investment. As a next step, as part of the Project, the Esplanade Association has committed to fund a new \$14 million public facility at the site through private donations, to donate it to the Commonwealth, and to establish a public-private partnership to operate and maintain it for at least 30 years at no cost to Massachusetts taxpayers.

The BHCA is pleased to see that the enabling legislation outlines criteria for how this Project should operate and includes specific governance and oversight processes that seek to protect the interests of the public. We encourage the Legislature to ensure the bill prioritizes public use, public access, public programming, and public amenities for the benefit of the communities we represent.

The Project is a unique opportunity to provide Boston families with improved recreational opportunities and nearby communities with

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much-needed convening spaces. This is a tangible and positive step forward for the Commonwealth's stewardship of the Esplanade and we fully support the passage of Senate Bill 2041. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Whitney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Whitney, Chair
Beacon Hill Civic Association

Cc: Senator Sal N. DiDomenico
Representative Jay Livingstone
City Councilor Kenzie Bok, District 8
City Councilor Ed Flynn, District 2
Ms. Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs
Mr. James Montgomery, Commissioner, Department of Conservation
& Recreation
Mr. Michael Nichols, Executive Director, Esplanade Association
Ms. Molly Griffin, City of Boston, Office of Neighborhood Services