



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**THE GENERAL COURT**

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

February 19, 2010

Greg Bialecki, Secretary  
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development  
1 Ashburton Place, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Secretary Bialecki,

We read with interest the Boston Globe story on February 9, 2010, "He has state, US funds waiting", regarding your interest in funding infrastructure projects across the state that triggers economic development. We believe that we have projects for you to fund to stimulate the economy, in the form of building parking garages along the Fitchburg Commuter Rail train station stops. More specifically, the Ayer and Littleton train stations are in need of funding to construct commuter parking garages that will attract more companies to the Nashoba Valley region, and enhance area residents' opportunities to commute into Cambridge and Boston.

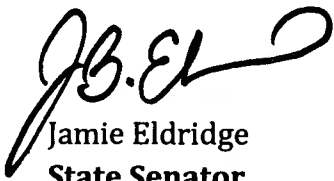
As work continues on the improvements Fitchburg line it is important to remember the full range of the benefits that this line will bring to the MetroWest and North Central Massachusetts regions. Not only will improvements to the line decrease travel times from Fitchburg into Boston, but they will also bring the promise of an improved reverse commute so that workers can travel out to the MetroWest economic development zones and the companies that have located in the region. Furthermore, the presence of these parking garages will help downtown Ayer, and attract more companies to Littleton.

While we are proud of the state and federal funding that we have secured to upgrade the entire Fitchburg Commuter Rail, more investments are needed. There needs to be a commitment to additional parking at the commuter rail stations along the line to ensure that people are using making best use of the station. The Commonwealth should prioritize parking at these stations along the commuter rail, including North Leominster, Shirley, Ayer, Littleton, and South Acton. Currently Ayer and Littleton are working on additional parking at their stations. In Ayer, there is a proposal to build a parking garage near the station. In Littleton the new MBTA redesigned station eliminates the 44 spots currently

there, but there is a proposal to for the MBTA to purchase private land adjacent to the station for the use of parking.

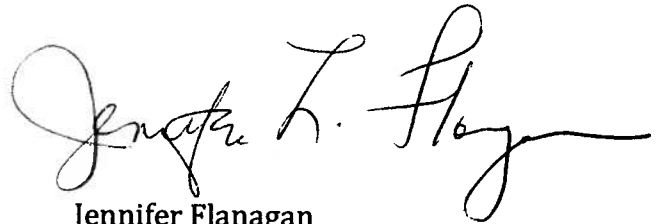
Companies like Bristol Myers Squibb in Devens, IBM in Littleton, Cisco Systems in Boxborough and L3 Communications in Ayer have recently located in these communities west of Boston and along the Fitchburg commuter rail line. A February 11, 2010 article in the Lowell Sun titled "Ayer, Billerica called top contenders for business growth" examined the town of Ayer and highlighted the actions of the towns in attracting companies to the region most notably its proximity to Interstate 495 and Route 2. Improvements to the Fitchburg commuter rail line are part of a vital transportation strategy for meeting the economic development needs of this region and additional parking at stations along the line should be part of this strategy.

We believe that improvements to the commuter rail service and additional parking at stations along the Fitchburg line can provide residents across the region with alternative and efficient transportation options that can help improve our environment. With this in mind, as a delegation we'd like to formally request a meeting with you to discuss these unique opportunities.



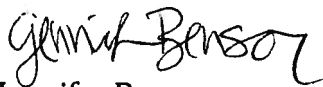
Jamie Eldridge  
**State Senator**

*Middlesex & Worcester District*



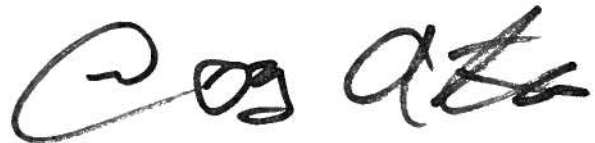
Jennifer Flanagan  
**State Senator**

*Worcester and Middlesex District*



Jennifer Benson  
**State Representative**

*37<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District*



Cory Atkins  
**State Representative**

*14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District*



Jim Arciero  
**State Representative**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex District*



Stephen DiNatalie  
**State Representative**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Worcester District*