

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

TEL. (617) 722-2000 DISTRICT: (508) 639-9511 Paul.Heroux@MAhouse.gov

RE: S119 An Act improving housing opportunities and the Massachusetts economy

DT: 19 January 2016

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses,

Thank you for considering S119, An Act improving housing opportunities and the Massachusetts economy before your committee on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to draw your attention to one particular aspect of this bill that I find to be extremely important in mitigating the housing crunch and helping our seniors. Among many things, this bill would change the zoning laws by allowing accessory dwelling units (colloquially known as in-law apartments) to be permitted by right in all areas zoned as single-family residential. This would remove the burdensome task of appearing before the local board to request a variance making it easier for seniors to continue to live in the community while staying close to their family and maintaining their independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request that S119, An Act improving housing opportunities and the Massachusetts be released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

Paul Heroux