



TOWN OF GROTON

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Select Board

John F. Reilly, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Clerk*
Alison S. Manugian, *Member*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

June 8, 2023

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon Street
Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Additional MSBA Funding
Communities Impacted By Pandemic Related Supply Chain Issues

Dear Chair Michlewitz:

We are writing to you concerning the critical situation of unprecedented cost overruns and pandemic related supply chain issues that have been impacting new school construction projects. This situation has forced impacted communities to seek additional bonding authorizations from local taxpayers since the MSBA funding amounts for those projects were based on estimates which turned out to be unrealistic due to the impact of the pandemic. As you are aware, the recently approved Senate Budget includes funding to assist those communities to offset these additional costs. Specifically, the Senate Budget has included \$200 million in funding to provide relief to those communities impacted by school construction project pandemic related overruns.

It is estimated that the total cost overruns of impacted projects were around \$300 million. The Senate Budget directs \$100 million in a combination of COVID-19 relief money already on hand and increased tax revenues along with \$100 million in additional bonding capacity for the MSBA. The final \$100 million would need to be absorbed by the impacted school construction projects, but the net effect, if adopted as part of the final State Budget, is that roughly 2/3rds of the pandemic related overrun costs would be covered by the MSBA.

As this was not included in the House of Representatives approved budget, it will obviously have to be reconciled by the Conference Committee. As the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and a member of the Conference Committee, the Town of Groton Select Board and Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee would respectfully request and urge you to include this funding in the final State Budget. You have been a champion of Municipal Government in your role as Chair and we would appreciate your support of this incredibly important funding for the residents and taxpayers of both Groton and other communities impacted by these cost overruns.

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
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We sincerely appreciate your attention and consideration of this very important funding issue.

Sincerely,

Groton Select Board

John F. Reilly, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk



Alison S. Manugian, Member

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

**Groton Dunstable Regional
School District Committee**

Fay Raynor, Chair

Rafael Glod, Vice Chair

Yasmeen Cheema, Secretary

Catherine Awa, Member

Rosanna Casavecchia, Member

Brian LeBlanc, Member

Lacey McCabe, Member

MWH/rjb

cc: Senator John Cronin
Representative Margaret Scarsdale
Representative Danillo Sena