

ATTACHMENT Z

July 28, 2022

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 174 of House Bill No. 5050, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 174 requires the Comptroller to transfer \$20 million to the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund prior to the calculation of the Fiscal Year 2022 (“FY22”) consolidated net surplus (“CNS”). I support funding for the Community Preservation Act. However, in my Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal, I proposed a similar transfer to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (“MLSC”), in order to ensure MLSC had clear assurance as to their allocation of state operating funds at the beginning of their fiscal year, not months later. The Legislature did not include this proposal in the budget that is currently before me and appears to have overlooked MLSC in the CNS transfers, although transfers to MLSC have been the norm in recent years. To address this oversight, I am proposing an amendment to Section 174 that would include both the funding for the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund and the overlooked funding for the MLSC.

For these reasons, I recommend that the bill be amended by striking out Section 174 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 174. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, prior to transferring the consolidated net surplus in the budgetary funds for fiscal year 2022 to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws, the comptroller shall: (i) transfer \$10,000,000 to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Investment Fund established in section 6 of chapter 23I of the General Laws; and (ii) transfer \$20,000,000 to the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund established in section 9 of chapter 44B of the General Laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker
Governor