



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives  
The Honorable Karen Spilka, Senate President of the Massachusetts Senate  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Business Coalition Comments in Support of Extending Remote Meeting Provisions Found in Section 20 of M.G.L. Chapter 20, Most Recently Amended by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023**

Dear Speaker Mariano and President Spilka:

We, the undersigned organizations, are incredibly grateful for your leadership in tackling the biggest issues facing Massachusetts businesses and residents. We hope to continue to partner with you and your respective Chambers throughout the 194<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the General Court.

Currently, the remote meeting provisions found in M.G.L. Chapter 20, Section 20 are set to expire on March 31, 2025. These provisions have allowed public bodies to continue providing live “adequate, alternative means” of public access to the deliberations of the public body, instead of holding meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public. Additionally, these provisions have allowed any or all members of a public body to continue participating in meetings remotely and suspended the Open Meeting Law’s requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location.

These provisions have been in place for almost five years and governed municipal and state boards, commissions and other public bodies for the entirety of that time. Throughout that time, remote meetings have become a common practice and are an appropriate and efficient use of technology to foster engagement. While we understand there are several avenues to make these provisions permanent filed for consideration this session, we urge the Legislature to quickly renew the temporary provisions in Chapter 20 Section 23 for a minimum of an additional 18-months so that public bodies have the certainty they need to call meetings while the various proposals seeking to make the provisions permanent can be considered by the legislative process.

Given the housing crisis and the need for nimble reaction to policies pushed forward at the federal level, these remote meeting provisions are essential to ensuring that the Commonwealth and its municipalities can advance and approve needed housing projects and economic development projects while being responsive to the needs and contributions of their constituents in an equitable manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or would like to reach out to schedule a meeting with our groups to discuss our position further, please reach out to Anastasia Daou, Vice President of Policy and Public Affairs for NAIOP Massachusetts, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association ([daou@naiopma.org](mailto:daou@naiopma.org)).

Sincerely,

Brooke Thomson  
President & CEO  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Rachel Heller  
CEO  
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)

James E. Rooney  
President & CEO  
The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Gregory Vasil  
CEO  
Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Joseph Landers  
Executive Officer  
Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts

JD Chesloff  
President & CEO  
Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Theresa Hatton  
CEO  
Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®

Tamara C. Small  
CEO  
NAIOP Massachusetts, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association

CC: The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Michael Rodrigues, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means