

2023 Engineers and Land Surveyors + Water's Worth It Day at the State House

Wipes Labeling can Save Ratepayers \$ Keep Waters Clean

ACTION REQUESTED — Clear Consumer Messaging

- Support: S.480/H.805 - *An Act protecting wastewater and sewerage systems through the labeling of non-flushable wipes* - Sponsors: Senator James B. Eldridge, Rep. Sean Garballey, Rep. Steven Owens - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
- We respectfully ask that the Legislature pass these bills to classify wipes, using wipes-industry standards as “non-flushable.”
- We ask that those wipes that do not meet industry standards for dispersibility have prominent, mandatory “Do Not Flush” labelling, following NACWA labeling guidelines.

Water Infrastructure Investment Creates Jobs

ACTION REQUESTED:

- ◆ Support increased funding for water infrastructure, including *H. 852, An Act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development infrastructure*. (Sponsor: Rep. Jay Livingstone)
- ◆ Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 raised the state capitalization of the SRF program from \$88 million to \$138 million, but the legislature needs to appropriate the funding. The Act also provides access to less than 2% loans, 0% or even principal forgiveness if a project meets certain criteria. Please fully fund capitalization at \$138 million.

PFAS – Communities Face Many Challenges

ACTION REQUESTED:

- ◆ The state should conduct its own toxicology studies to better understand the exposure pathways and uptake rates of specific PFAS compounds and embark on consumer education to make people aware of how to reduce their exposure from consumer products and food, in addition to water.
- ◆ Support a ban on PFAS in consumer products to stem the tide of more PFAS being introduced into our environment.
- ◆ Carefully review any legislation to be sure there are no unintended consequences to our municipalities by further regulating wastewater biosolids disposal.
- ◆ Require MassDEP to develop a comprehensive Statewide Master Plan for biosolids management and disposal which includes a comprehensive evaluation of biosolids management alternatives. This should include economic and non-economic considerations for farms and ratepayers in the respective communities. Non-economic factors should include details such as green house gas (GHG) analysis of alternatives, carbon sequestration, truck traffic, long term sustainability, and exposure pathways of any contaminants of concern.

Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure:

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- Re-implement targeted formula-based funding to cities and towns (like the Winter Recovery Assistance Program) that will help to bridge local-level funding gaps.
- Support a multiyear increase to Chapter 90 funding, enabling municipalities to better plan and implement transportation projects.
- Support new revenue for transportation, including increased use of tolling, in conjunction with the other New England states or a pilot project for collecting fees on VMTs (Vehicle Miles Traveled.)

- Support Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives that would enable a municipality, or a group of municipalities as a district, to raise additional local money for transportation projects, operations, or transit-oriented development via ballot initiatives.
- Support initiatives that will help offset investments in the energy transition.

Maximizing Private Sector Innovation: Delivering for Massachusetts: The critical role the engineering industry plays in addressing state and municipal infrastructure needs.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Oppose: *H. 3305, An Act to assure safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections*, Representative Daniel M. Donahue of Worcester, currently in Joint Committee on Transportation
- Oppose: *S. 2035 An Act to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections*, Senator Michael O. Moore currently in Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
- Oppose: *S. 2047, An Act relative to protecting the taxpayers of the Commonwealth*, Senator Marc R. Pacheco, currently in Joint Committee State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
- Oppose these bills and any other bill or amendments that would prevent state agencies and municipalities from contracting out for professional engineering or land surveying services, related design services, construction phase engineering or testing services. Public agencies need the flexibility to determine how they will get this work done.: