**Legislative Alert**

**SAMPLE Support LETTER to Your State Representative and Your State Senator, for Dig Safe**

**For State Representative: you are writing about HB 2815**

**For State Senator: you are writing about SB 1392**

* Please be sure and include any personal stories of relevance in your letter, which can be mailed and emailed to your legislators. Please don’t use this exact text, but personal stories would be great to include!
* **Find your election information, based on where you live/vote, here:** [**https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx**](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx)

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Date for letter

State Rep or State Senator

 address info. etc.

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ or Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_,

As a (profession) at (Name of Company) in (City or Town), Massachusetts, I am writing in support of **SB 1392, An Act relative to public safety in excavation or HB 2815, An Act relative to public safety in excavation**.

I am a member of the Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers (MALSCE). For more than 50 years, MALSCE has been working diligently to maintain and promote adherence to technical and procedural standards for the practice of Land Surveying in the Commonwealth, and the rules of professional conduct for the greater protection of the public. We have almost 400 members in the land surveying and engineering professions.

Public Safety and the safety of Professional Land Surveyors and their survey crews is critically important to us. **SB 1392 or HB 2815, An Act relative to public safety in excavation provide important opportunities to modernize the DigSafe law.**

Many public utility systems run underground through pipes and conduit. Identifying the location of these systems and abandoned pipes and conduit is an important step in the design and construction of infrastructure improvements. The current Dig Safe law in Massachusetts does not fully reflect the current recommendations of the Common Ground Alliance. The Dig Safe Law needs to be updated for public safety and to prevent inconvenience to the public during construction.

The legislation would add the term “Professional Land Surveyor” and its definition to allow for the Dig-Safe law to be applicable for surveyors to obtain utility location information at the preliminary design phase for a facility, which would greatly assist the design and construction of the facility, including safety for workers as well as the general public.

If passed, **SB 1392 or HB 2815** would help land surveyors access Dig-Safe information earlier in a project, when the project is in preliminary design. Specific, accurate utility location information at the design phase of projects will promote more efficient design and construction of facilities and protect the general public, utility company assets and the lives of contractors. The proposed change to Section 40B makes this provision applicable to surveyors as well as excavators to ensure proper notice of the markings.

Additionally, the legislation will help to reduce the number of construction change orders for public and private sector projects, saving money during construction and improving construction site safety.

I respectfully request that you support **SB 1392 or HB 2815, An Act relative to public safety in excavation**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Name, title and contact information]