



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE SENATOR

MICHAEL O. MOORE

SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT

State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

For Immediate Release:
August 2, 2010

Contact: Jason Palitsch
(617) 722-1485

**LEGISLATURE PASSES INVESTMENT PACKAGE FOR MASSACHUSETTS
GATEWAY CITIES, INCLUDING WORCESTER**

Boston - The Massachusetts Legislature voted overwhelmingly last week to adopt a set of economic development programs aimed at revitalizing twenty-four of the Commonwealth's older industrial cities through tax incentives and urban investment commitments, including Worcester. The adoption of the conference committee report on economic development, which includes these Gateway Cities initiatives proposed by the Gateway Cities Legislature Caucus, now heads to the Governor for his signature.

"I am pleased to see the Commonwealth make such a crucial investment in Worcester," said Sen. Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury). "This legislation will go a long way to provide support to businesses who create jobs, build market-rate housing, and improve blighted areas."

Gateway Cities are municipalities with a population between 35,000 and 250,000 that have a median household income and educational attainment rate below the state average. Unemployment rates in these cities have climbed well above the state average of 8.8%, with Worcester's reaching 11.3% and Lawrence's rate at 16.7%.

The specifics of the legislation include:

- Reconfiguring the Gateway Cities Manufacturing Retention and Job Growth Program to offer tax incentives to employers who create at least 25 new manufacturing jobs or retain 50 such positions in a manufacturing facility located in a Gateway municipality.
- Creating the Housing Development Incentive Program to allocate \$5 million for tax credits for developers of multi-unit market-rate housing in designated housing development zones within Gateway cities.
- Allocating \$50 million to the Growth Districts Initiative Grant Program which expedites commercial and residential development by making certain properties "development ready" with respect to local & state permitting, site preparation, environmental remediation, and transportation infrastructure.

- Extending the Brownfields Remediation Tax Credit Program to provide tax incentives to businesses who will clean and develop lands, much of which in Massachusetts is located in Gateway Cities.

In addition, part of the package proposed by the Gateway Cities Caucus, a seven-year extension of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, was included in the recently-enacted FY11 operating budget. That program provides tax incentives to developers who rehabilitate, reuse and revitalize historic properties, often creating quality affordable and market rate housing, community centers, retail and office space, and performing arts venues.

The twenty-four communities that currently would qualify for these new initiatives are: Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield and Worcester.

###