

Rep. Jake Auchincloss (MA-04) – Appropriations Committee Member Day – FY22

June 9, 2021

Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger, I appreciate the opportunity to share how the FY2022 funding bill will benefit the people and economy of our country in the context of Massachusetts' Fourth Congressional District. I write to urge you to fully fund ten key Community Funding Projects that are top priorities for my constituents, listed alphabetically:

1. Battleship Cove Off Street Parking and Pier Improvement Project (City of Fall River): Economic Development Initiative funding would provide a pivotal boost to Fall River's waterfront as a place to work, visit, eat, and play. This funding will help the City create additional capacity for tourists to visit the historic Battleship Cove. It will also protect a recently remediated waterfront pier facility from erosion, to create more resilient public infrastructure for recreation and transient dockage/boating purposes. These improvements will spur private investment resulting in job creation, job retention, and an enhanced quality of life for the people of Fall River and people across the state.

2. Bristol Community College Offshore Wind Institute (City of Fall River): Bristol Community College is leading the way in the development of offshore wind off the coast of Massachusetts. With the help of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, their National Offshore Wind Institute (NOWI) will offer professional development training, focused on skills and competencies required for careers in the offshore wind industry. Graduates will receive a Bristol academic offshore wind associate degree and certificate. The College has partnered with Maersk Training, a global program with training facilities across Europe, to

utilize their breadth of knowledge and familiarity with the offshore wind sector to best shape the NOWI and ensure its offerings are responsive to the U.S. market and sector.

3. Central Water Treatment Facility (Town of Medway): Medway is not able to pump sufficient water for peak demand and is at risk of not having enough water during emergencies. Drinking Water State Revolving Funds will help the Town of Medway develop a centralized water treatment facility to provide adequate quantities for both drinking water and fire protection. Additionally, this water treatment facility will improve the quality of drinking water that is high in manganese and iron. It will also help the Town of Medway mitigate and remove PFAS to meet the Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection (MassDEP) standard. Safe and clean drinking water is essential for any community to thrive, and this project will be broadly and durably beneficial to my district.

4. Hopedale Water Supply (Town of Hopedale): The Town of Hopedale is experiencing a critical water supply issue, in both a quantity and quality perspective. Recent PFAS testing results combined with a low draw have shut down a primary well. Dedicated funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund will provide an immediate, significant improvement to the Town's water quantity issue, especially in the high demand periods, while also providing additional benefits to the long term, new source aspects. The additional storage capacity would also improve the water volumes related to PFAS mitigation. I appreciate that the Committee allowed me to submit this additional priority after the EPA awarded a Brownfields Grant to another one of my priority projects, the Attleboro Dye Works Site.

5. Manet Community Health Center Satellite Clinic (City of Attleboro): Manet Community Health Center plans to open a satellite health center in the heart of Attleboro's downtown. Manet provides critical support for residents who may otherwise not receive

treatment, and a new location would allow for more residents to access the care they need. Their physician, nurse and social work team will serve roughly 1,300 new patients in its first year and act as a new location for their 325 existing patients. The proposed facility will be accessible to seniors, students, children, and, through its telehealth services, those who are experiencing homelessness. The satellite clinic will offer comprehensive health care services including primary medical care, access to specialists, preventive health screenings, and behavioral health counseling. Through HRSA's Health Facilities Construction and Equipment grant program, Manet will be able to develop this new facility and deliver more equitable healthcare for constituents of Massachusetts' Fourth District and people across the region.

6. New Hope New Domestic Violence Shelter (City of Attleboro): New Hope is a non-profit organization in my district providing shelter and social services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They seek Economic Development Initiative funding to help build a new 11,000 square foot, domestic violence shelter in the City of Attleboro. The shelter will be located on a public transportation route, providing access to a range of services, such as jobs and educational programs, to help families rebuild their lives. The new shelter will incorporate design strategies that build dignity and respect, including private bathrooms, a commercial size kitchen, a large dining space, play space for child development activities, a dedicated educational space with a computer lab and library, and living space that is large enough to accommodate 14 families. This Community Project Funding will help New Hope serve the 200 survivors seeking shelter every day in Massachusetts who are unable to access space due to lack of capacity. It will also support New Hope in its mission to help survivors recover from mental health disease and substance use.

7. Plainville Critical Water Needs (Town of Plainville): The Town of Plainville is a small community in my District. The Town has worked hard to better the lives of its citizens, in part by attracting Thermo Fisher to build a new facility and create jobs in an underserved area of the Fourth District. Additionally, Plainville is investing in senior housing for its aging population. However, the Town's existing water system is currently over capacity and needs \$1.5 million to expand its water treatment plant to twice its current capacity. Dedicated Drinking Water State Revolving Funds would help the Town meet the needs of seniors living in assisted and public housing as well as those families drawn to good-paying jobs that come as a result of Thermo Fisher's new facility investment.

8. Somerset Emergency Dam Improvements (Town of Somerset): Built in 1964, the Somerset earthen embankment dam is the Town's primary source of drinking water with a storage capacity of 1.5 million gallons. However, it has been assessed that if just a few inches of water overtook the dam, the event would lead to erosion and dam failure. As a result, the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety has classified this dam as a High Hazard Potential dam. With the requested Pre-Disaster Mitigation Project funds, the Town will utilize nature-based solutions designed to work with storm flow through the use of sod and stone to stabilize the earthen structures. This environmentally resilient approach keeps capital cost and long-term maintenance requirements low and ensures the town can safely maintain its water supply.

9. Ten-Mile River Dredging Project (Town of North Attleborough): The Ten-Mile River travels from the northwest corner of North Attleborough to the southeast corner of town. In the 1930s under the Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Ten-Mile River was cleaned, repaired, straightened, and walled. In the 90 years since, the town's population has more than doubled, and its downtown area has grown significantly. The river, which has a 7-foot

elevation difference, now overtops its banks in storm events of 1 or greater. With the support of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Project funding, North Attleborough intends to dredge the entire 9,200-foot length between ponds, including two State-maintained culverts, and re-establish two small overflow ponds and repair stone walls to protect a growing number of homes, businesses, and infrastructure projects from future flood damage.

10. Well Replacement (Town of Norton): The Town of Norton’s water system is currently running at almost half-capacity, and is in desperate need of Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to replace Wells 4, 5, and 6. These three wells support approximately 70 percent of the Norton water system, serving almost 20,000 people across the Town. Unfortunately, Wells 5 and 6 are running on 50 percent capacity and will need to be replaced before they fail. Well 4 is at the end of its usefulness and is experiencing a steady decline. The combined projects would increase capacity by approximately 1.05 million gallons per day. Without Wells 4, 5, and 6, the Town of Norton will not have enough water for its residents.

In closing, thank you for your attention to these important projects, which I believe deliver the greatest impact to my constituents and best leverage federal dollars. These priorities represent the input of local, regional, and state officials—town administrators and mayors; state representatives and senators; regional planning bodies; and the governor and cabinet. We have also consulted a diverse set of experts from relevant sectors, like transportation, housing, economic development, renewable energy, and the life sciences to select projects that I am confident will best serve the many cities and towns across Massachusetts’ Fourth District. I look forward to working with you to deliver projects with the greatest benefit to my constituents.