

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

BRADLEY H. JONES, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MINORITY LEADER

20th MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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April 13, 2017

Mr. Joseph Aiello, Chairman
MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2890
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Chairman Aiello:

We are writing to express our strong support for the board's approval and implementation of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's proposed bus maintenance plan.

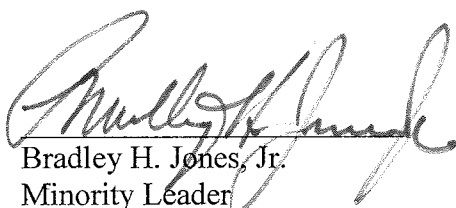
As the MBTA continues to pursue ways to create a more cost-efficient and reliable public transit system, it is imperative that multiple options be explored to help maximize savings without compromising service. The proposal that is currently before your board would accomplish both goals.

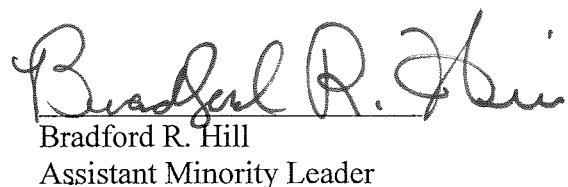
In Fiscal Year 2016, the MBTA spent \$132 million on bus maintenance, representing an average cost of \$56 an hour or \$126,000 per bus. While these figures are well above the national average of \$73 million, or \$31 an hour, for public transit systems, the contrast is even more striking when compared to the average of \$46 million, or \$20 an hour, expended by privately-operated public transit systems. Even with the introduction of new vehicles to the MBTA's bus fleet, maintenance costs are continuing to rise at an unacceptable rate.

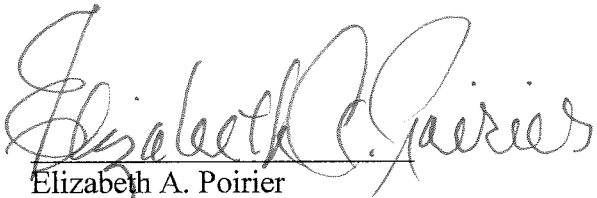
By partnering with private companies and outsourcing its bus maintenance operations, the MBTA could potentially achieve tens of millions of dollars in savings annually. These savings could then be reinvested in other critical areas, including capital maintenance and debt reduction. An overhaul of the bus maintenance program represents a viable solution to help alleviate some of the fiscal constraints the MBTA is currently facing and ensure that commuters continue to have access to reliable and dependable public transportation.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter and again express our support for the board's favorable action on the pending bus maintenance proposal.

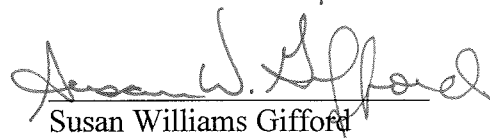
Sincerely,


Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Minority Leader

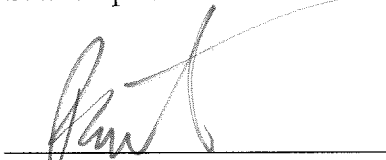

Bradford R. Hill
Assistant Minority Leader



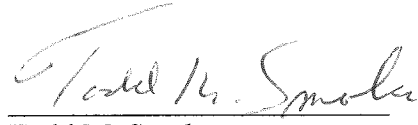
Elizabeth A. Poirier
State Representative



Susan Williams Gifford
State Representative



Paul K. Frost
State Representative



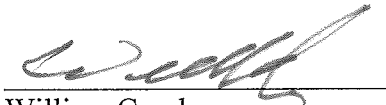
Todd M. Smola
State Representative



Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.
State Representative



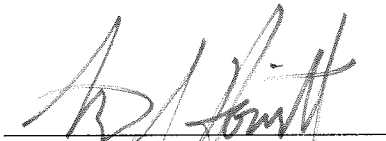
Nicholas A. Boldyga
State Representative



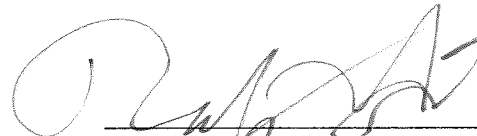
William Crocker
State Representative



Kimberly N. Ferguson
State Representative



Steven S. Howitt
State Representative



Randy Hunt
State Representative



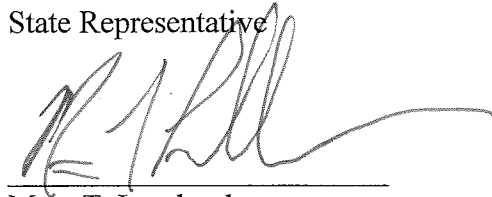
Hannah Kane
State Representative



James M. Kelcourse
State Representative



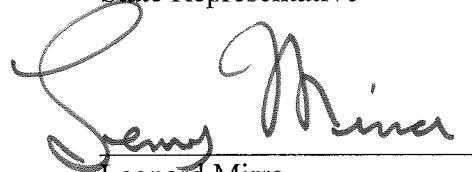
Kevin J. Kuros
State Representative



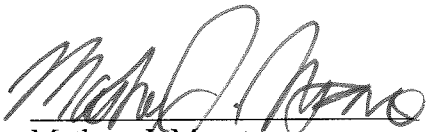
Marc T. Lombardo
State Representative

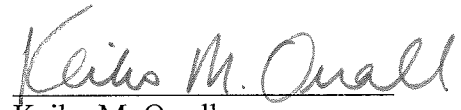



Joseph D. McKenna
State Representative

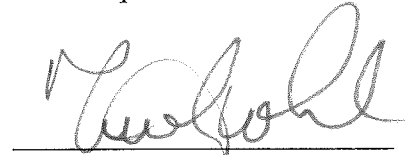



Leonard Mirra
State Representative


Mathew J. Muratore
State Representative


Keiko M. Orrall
State Representative


David T. Vieira
State Representative


Timothy R. Whelan
State Representative


F. Jay Barrows
State Representative