



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR MARK C. W. MONTIGNY

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September 20, 1993

Governor William F. Weld
Executive Office
State House, Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Weld:

I am writing to register my distress at the MBTA's failure to make a priority of the Commuter Rail Extension to the New Bedford Area. As President of the Fall River Chamber of Commerce in the late eighties, I initiated the MBTA feasibility study for an extension through Senators Tom Norton and William McLean.

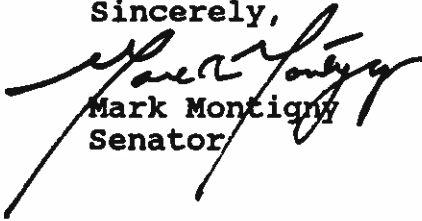
Governor, I am sure you remember the Fall River Chamber of Commerce luncheon in 1990, when we discussed this issue in depth. We were seated at the head table when you expressed your support of an extension to Southeastern Massachusetts to me personally, and repeated it to universal applause. The meeting was followed by discussion in the Editorial Board of a local newspaper.

As you may know, no progress has been made in this matter since the completion of the MBTA's initial feasibility study in 1990 (which held the extension to be feasible). Secretary Kerasiotes' budget caps on the MBTA have resulted in the omission of a subsequent \$3 million environmental impact study from the current five year plan, which should be in progress. This leads us through to 1997 with no study.

Public and private sector leaders in greater New Bedford have reached consensus on this issue and have encouraged me to lead an effort for this extension. While we appreciate the need to control state budgets, the commuter rail extension project is too fundamental to our recovery as an economically viable region to be omitted like any other MBTA project. Southeastern Massachusetts is depending on this more, perhaps, than any other prospect. We urge you to fund the project as an expression of your commitment to the region's economic future.

I request a meeting with you personally to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Montigny
Senator

cc: Secretary James J. Kerasiotes