



September 3, 2019

Dear Legislator,

As the legislature prepares to reconvene following the summer recess, statements from House and Senate leadership indicate that a tax bill will be front and center on the agenda this fall. While Massachusetts faces significant challenges in its transportation infrastructure, a lack of funding is not one of them.

A recent study by the Reason Foundation indicates that Massachusetts spends the third highest amount per road-mile of any state in the country. While the average expenditure per mile is around \$71,000, Massachusetts spends almost triple that at \$216,066. Before the legislature moves to increase taxes and debt on its constituents, we urge you to review these costs and enact sensible reforms to reign in wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Further, Massachusetts is set to end the year roughly \$522M over projected revenues. This is one of our largest budget surpluses in recent memory and would provide most other states with ample margins to increase funding without raising new taxes. In addition to protecting individuals from unnecessary and harmful tax increases, we urge you to also keep in mind the struggles of the small business employer community. Small businesses in the state are still feeling the negative effects of the EMAC tax. This is on top of the recently increased minimum wage and the headaches of the soon to be paid family and medical leave policy. And while legislative leadership has told the public a new tax bill would be forthcoming this fall, no details have yet been made public. Small businesses can only hold their breath in anticipation for what surprise awaits them this time.

Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance urges you to pursue your legislative agenda in an open, transparent, and public manner. Massachusetts taxpayers and the small business community will not thrive in a state where their elected leaders work behind closed doors, only to come up with a pre-destined solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Belsito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Belsito
Legislative Director