



MASSACHUSETTS
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

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**Council President Chris Anderson's Statement on
Legislature's Approval of Constitutional Amendment Tax Trap
June 14, 2017**

Waltham, Mass. –

"The proposed historic tax increase represents an unprecedented move to shelter elected politicians from accountability for taxation and spending policies. But before the special-interest backed measure, which would prove disastrous to our goals of economic growth and job creation, heads to the ballot - it must first pass constitutional muster. We believe it will fail that test."

For background:

The Constitutional Amendment "Tax Trap" approved by the legislature today is designed to have great superficial appeal, but below the surface is a troubling reality: the proposal is unconstitutional. It flips 100 years of Constitutional precedent on its head. Allowing special interests to manipulate the ballot initiative process to permanently embed revenue earmarks via the Constitution is an unconstitutional by-pass of the Legislature's accountability for "taxing and spending" decisions.

Nothing like this has ever been done before in the Commonwealth for a simple reason: the Massachusetts Constitution does not allow it. We are confident that after an inevitable review by the Supreme Judicial Court, it will be found to violate the longstanding constitutional limitations applicable to ballot initiatives of this type.

The Council is committed to ensuring that Massachusetts fosters the conditions that support job and economic growth. That is especially true when it comes to maintaining a world-class public education system and strengthening our transportation infrastructure. The Council will also continue to actively support policies that maintain the distance between the old "Taxachusetts" days, and continue to drive forward one of the most robust technology economies in the nation.

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