

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT FROM PLAINTIFFS REGARDING SJC DECISION ON  
GRADUATED INCOME SURTAX INITIATIVE PETITION**

“Today, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court affirmed the ongoing importance of the Constitution’s safeguards against citizens’ initiatives to amend the Constitution that combine multiple subjects that are unrelated. This historic decision will prevent special interests from circumventing the Constitution’s separation of powers, under which the Legislature must determine specific public expenditures and specific tax rates on specific groups of taxpayers. This case was not about whether a graduated income tax is good public policy or bad public policy, it was about how the proponents tried to achieve it – a method in direct violation of the Constitution under which the Legislature’s deliberative taxing and spending authority would have been severely limited.”

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The five plaintiffs are Christopher Anderson, President of the Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc. (MHTC); Christopher Carlozzi, Massachusetts State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Richard Lord, President and Chief Executive Officer of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM); Eileen McAnneny, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF); and, Daniel O’Connell, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership (MACP).