



Leslie Singleton Adam
Chair

Colin Zick
First Vice Chair

Valerie Burns
Vice Chair

Abigail Mason
Vice Chair

Catherine Bordon
Secretary

William C. Clendaniel
Treasurer

Elizabeth Vizza
Executive Director

DIRECTORS
Allison Achtmeyer
Bear Albright
Christine Anderson
Gordon Burnes
Claire Corcoran
Linda Cox
Kate Enroth
Elizabeth Johnson
Frank Mead
Barbara Moore
Beatrice Nessen
Katherine O'Keeffe
Patricia Quinn
Anne Swanson
Allan Taylor

Henry Lee
President Emeritus

HONORARY
Ann K. Collier
Nina Doggett
Barbara Hostetter

EX OFFICIO
Jeanne Burlingame
Jim Hood
Sherley Smith

May 17, 2018

Senator Joseph Boncore
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St. Room 112
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Boncore,

I am writing to you today to express support for Senate budget amendment #45 *Open Space Advertising* filed by Senator Collins.

As you know, at the core of Friends of the Public Garden's mission is protecting and enhancing the Boston Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. We carry this out in a variety of ways, most notably raising and investing more than \$1,000,000 on parks care and improvements in the three parks every year, and advocating against threats to these urban oases.

We find the issue of outdoor advertising on MassDOT property to be of particular concern surrounding the three parks we care for. We very much appreciate your speaking out against the digital signs proposed by the MBTA across from the Common and the Garden, on Tremont and Arlington Streets.


We are particularly concerned about the fact that MassDOT regulations currently exempt them from any public approval process when it comes to the leasing of their own space for such advertisement. This exemption takes away the voice of the Friends and other neighborhood groups and citizens.

Amendment #45 would require that MassDOT be consistent with local ordinances or bylaws, and require billboards, signs, and other advertising devices go through the local approval process in order to be placed within 500 feet of a public park. The Friends feels this language is not only fair but necessary, in order to protect and preserve the historic character of some of our most cherished public spaces.

The House of Representatives adopted this language in their final budget for Fiscal Year 2019 and we would urge the Senate do the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the issue and our position.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Vizza
Executive Director

Thanks for your consideration, Joe!