

# North Central MASSACHUSETTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Charles D. Baker  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 280  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

Dear Governor Baker,

We are writing on behalf of our members with the request that you replenish the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund with the federal dollars the Commonwealth recently received. Our members appreciate the steps taken last month to limit rate hikes, unfortunately the rate hikes our local employers are seeing are difficult to absorb with all they have dealt with over the past year.

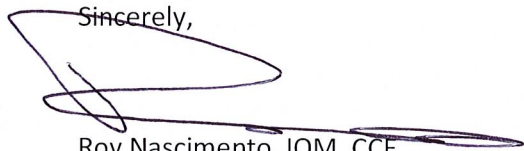
Throughout the pandemic, our region's employers have juggled shutdowns, restrictions, rollbacks and protocols that resulted in lost revenue. They went along with these steps and worked hard to keep generating what revenue they could for the Commonwealth through these unprecedented times. Some employers unfortunately, did have to trim their workforce, but did so with the understanding and reassurances that due to the challenges of the pandemic, they would not be penalized. Others, despite the financial losses, still kept their full staff on payroll, never imagining their commitment and sacrifice would be met with rate hikes.

One of our local small businesses, who went without any layoffs, found that their unemployment contribution rate went from the lowest tier to the highest and is looking at over \$2,000 in additional payments due for the first quarter. This is a story we are hearing over and over from members. At a time when we are pushing for folks to go back to work and hoping for the economy to bounce back, how can our employers think of bringing additional staff or making necessary upgrades with this added financial burden?

In the same way our employers have committed to building back the State even stronger in the wake of the pandemic, we echo the sentiments of House and Senate leadership and we implore you to show your commitment to our job creators and ease their burden by using federal dollars to replenish the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

We appreciate your consideration on this matter and are more than willing to discuss this matter with you further.

Sincerely,



Roy Nascimento, IOM, CCE  
President & CEO



Travis Condon  
Public Affairs Manager