

December 3, 2024

North Central MASSACHUSETTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Clinton Select Board
Town of Clinton
242 Church Street
Clinton, MA 01510

RE: Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Classification

Dear Chair and Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to offer testimony regarding the Town of Clinton's FY25 tax classification hearing. The Chamber is a membership-based, volunteer-led organization dedicated to advancing the prosperity of North Central Massachusetts. We are proud to serve as a partner to the Town of Clinton and the other communities in the region, working collaboratively to foster economic growth in our communities and region.

We appreciate the Board's leadership and commitment to supporting economic development, including the valuable contributions of Town Administrator Michael Ward and Phil Duffy of the Office of Community and Economic Development. Your collective efforts have enhanced Clinton's business environment.

Looking ahead, we encourage the Board to further position Clinton for growth and success by narrowing the gap between commercial/industrial and residential rates, working towards the ultimate goal of a single tax rate. This approach would align Clinton with other Worcester County communities that have successfully implemented this structure. Experience shows that split tax rates can impede economic growth by deterring commercial and industrial investment.

Tax policy remains one of the few economic tools directly within the Board's control. While external challenges such as inflation and workforce constraints continue to impact the broader economy, adopting a more competitive tax structure is a tangible and impactful step. Moving toward a single tax rate will demonstrate Clinton's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment, encourage investment and help to strengthen the tax base.

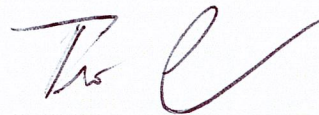
We respectfully urge the Board to seize this opportunity to keep Clinton's momentum moving forward by voting to narrow the tax rate gap. The decisions made tonight will help secure the community's economic future.

Thank you for considering our input on this important matter. We appreciate your continued dedication to the Town of Clinton and look forward to working together to advance economic growth for the Town of Clinton and the region.

Sincerely,



Roy Nascimento, CCE, IOM
President & CEO



Travis Condon
Public Affairs Manager