



# BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WILLIAM DOHERTY  
Harwich

MARY PAT FLYNN  
Falmouth

SHEILA R. LYONS  
Wellfleet

HOME RULED CHARTERED  
IN 1989

May 28, 2014

Ron Bergstrom, Speaker  
Assembly of Delegates  
Cape Cod Regional Government  
P.O. Box 427  
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Speaker Bergstrom:

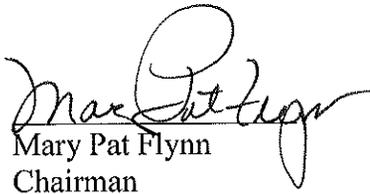
In accordance with the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter, Article 3, Section 3-8, the Board of Regional Commissioners of the Cape Cod Regional Government known as Barnstable County does hereby disapprove of Ordinance 14-02, adopted by the Assembly of Delegates at its meeting on May 21, 2014 which would provide appropriations for Barnstable County's operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2015. The disapproval by the Board of Regional Commissioners includes the following reasons:

1. The reductions proposed by the Assembly of Delegates through Ordinance 14-02 relate exclusively to a 2.5% regional assessment tax increase as previously recommended by the Board of Regional Commissioners and would result in a revenue decrease in the amount of \$74,314.00.
2. Elimination of the 2.5% regional assessment would result in long term fiscal consequences including a projected cumulative lost revenue in the amount of \$1.6 million between Fiscal Years 2015 through 2020 as reflected within the attached analysis prepared by County Finance Director, Mark Zielinski
3. The specific reductions in appropriations adopted by the Assembly of Delegates through Ordinance 14-02 will impact operating revenue for adopted regional priority projects

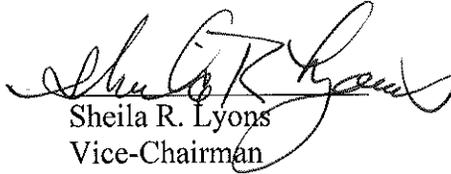
specifically within the Cape Cod Commission and IT Departments.

4. The appropriation reductions proposed by Ordinance 14-02 would diminish the ability to maintain an adequate tax base for community projects identified as County joint initiatives administered by the Cape Cod Commission.

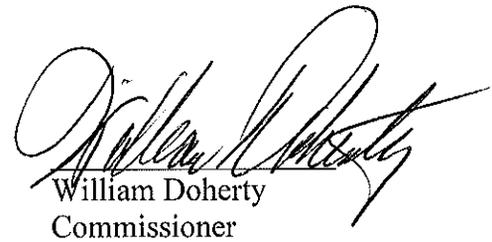
Disapproval action was taken by the Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at 9:35 a.m.



Mary Pat Flynn  
Chairman



Sheila R. Lyons  
Vice-Chairman



William Doherty  
Commissioner

## Michael Brillhart

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**From:** Mark Zielinski  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Michael Brillhart; 'mpatflynn@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Sheila Lyons; Bill Doherty  
**Subject:** County Tax Analysis  
**Attachments:** CountyTaxAssessmentFY97-FY2020.xls

Everyone,

I looked at the County Tax going back to FY1997 and examined the past impacts from the "Surplus" policy we adopted back then. I also examined the County tax going forward from 2014 and eliminating the 2.5% increase to 2020.

Then attached spreadsheet shows the results.

In summary, the "Surplus" policy was to not increase the County Tax assessment for the next fiscal year during times in which there were surplus County revenues (General Fund), This was in effect from FY2000 through FY2008. Cumulatively, foregoing the County tax increase during that time "cost" the County over \$8 million in revenues (over \$750,000 in FY2015 alone).

Next I examined a similar proposed policy applied from FY2015 through FY2020. Basically, if we project that the County tax assessment remains constant at FY2014 levels (\$2,972,551) through FY2020, then the County will forego revenues of over \$1.6 million during that time (nearly \$500,000 alone in FY2020).

Of course, as these revenues cannot be made up, the cumulative loss grows each year.

Mark