A of D and
CRC 9-4-19

Janice O'Connell

From:	Ron Beaty
Sent:	Thursday, August 08, 2019 11:09 AM
To:	Suzanne McAuliffe; Janice O'Connell; Assembly of Delegates
Cc:	Jack Yunits Jr.; Stephen Tebo; Owen Fletcher
Subject:	Comments/Thoughts Regarding County Governmental Structure

Attention: Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker of the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, and Chairperson of the County Charter Review Committee

Dear Madam Speaker, and/or Chairperson:

Relative to the recent request for my comments/thoughts regarding County Governmental Structure, I have the following response:

The Barnstable County Home Rule Charter is essentially both the Constitution and instructional guide for our Cape Cod Regional Government. It provides us with an outline and blueprint for how county government is supposed to work, as well as a mechanism to fine tune things via the enactment of ordinances. It also has the ability to evolve through the amendment process.

Barnstable County Government is a bicameral structure, in that it is composed of two main elements, an executive branch which is the County Commissioners, and a legislative branch which is the Assembly of Delegates. The three politically partisan County Commissioners are elected at-large on a Cape-wide basis, while the 15 non-partisan members of the County Assembly are elected on a town-by-town basis. The two branches of County Government include a system of "checks and balances" which allow matters of importance to be debated, resolved and/or rejected in a rather profound democratic fashion to say the least.

With the aforesaid background in mind, it is my contention that the current structure of our County Government is just fine as is. It functions quite well as shown in recent years.

If it is not broke, then don't fix it.

It might also be worthy to note, that any major proposals put forth via the County Charter Review Committee and process to alter or change the present structure of our Cape Cod Regional Government will be openly and strenuously opposed by me and other Cape residents.

Thank you.

Best regards,

RONALD BEATY
Barnstable County Commissioner