DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)1.

	NON-ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of **non-elected** public employee:	Karen Charles
Title/ Position	Commissioner
Agency/ Department	Department of Telecommunications and Cable (TAC)
Agency address:	1 Federal Street, Suite 0740 Boston, MA 02110
Office phone:	[redacted]
Office e-mail:	karen.charles@mass.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	I am filing this disclosure because: X I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and X A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than $50.
	ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	The 78th Annual New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners (NECPUC) Symposium will convene commissioners and staff from the six New England state public utilities commissions, along with utility companies and other key stakeholders, to discuss emerging regional issues affecting a range of regulated industries, including the telecommunications marketplace.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I currently serve as a member of NECPUC's Board of Directors and have been invited to moderate two telecommunications-focused panels aligned with the Symposium's underlying theme of affordability: *Harnessing Markets to Lower Telecommunications Costs for Consumers* and *Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Funding and Universal Broadband*. I will also participate in additional meetings and attend panels for the duration of the Symposium.
Date, time and location of activity.	May 18, 2026 - May 20, 2026 Samoset Resort 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME 04856
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	Participation in the NECPUC Symposium will advance the interests of the Commonwealth by strengthening Massachusetts' telecommunications policy through meaningful collaboration with regional counterparts. The Symposium provides an important forum for the exchange of information and best practices on critical issues in New England, enabling the Commonwealth to remain proactive and well-informed in its oversight of the telecommunications marketplace. Attendance also offers an opportunity to elevate Massachusetts' policy priorities in regional discussions, while gaining timely insight into emerging challenges and innovative strategies affecting the Commonwealth's efforts to promote affordability, expand access, and protect consumers.

	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	George Twigg, Executive Director New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners
Address of person or organization.	P.O. Box 9111 Essex, VT 05451
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	***Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:***
Transportation:	*Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.* N/A
Lodging:	*Overnight accommodations.* N/A
Meals:	*Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.* N/A
Admission:	*Registration, admission, tickets, etc.* $295.00 (Waived for Commissioners of NECPUC Member States)
Other (please list):	*Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.* N/A
Total:	$295.00
Write an X beside any statement that applies.	**___ I have attached the relevant itinerary.** **__X__ I have attached the relevant agenda.**
Employee signature:	KarenCharles
Date:	3/4/2026

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Complete the disclosure and submit it to your appointing authority.

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY

	APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION
Name of Appointing Authority:	Maura T. Healey (by Chief of Staff Kate Cook)
Agency and Title/Position:	Governor, Office of the Governor
Agency address:	Office of the Governor, Room 280 Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	(617) 725-4005
Employee who filed the disclosure:	Karen Charles
	DETERMINATION
To give approval, check <u>both</u> statements.	Upon consideration of the facts disclosed by the employee above, I find that: X Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND X Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to the employee or the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Reason that the employee's travel or attendance will serve a legitimate public purpose:	As stated in the disclosure.
Appointing Authority signature:	Kate Cook
Date:	5/18/26

Attach additional pages if necessary.

The appointing authority should maintain the disclosure as a public record and give a copy of any signed determination to the employee.