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.	Attendance at the 2026 Current Issues Conference hosted by New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities ("CPU"), where professionals employed at federal and state commissions, utility companies, and other stakeholders discuss emerging issues facing a number of regulated industries, including telecommunications.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I currently sit as a member of CPU's Advisory Council and have been invited to participate as a panel respondent in a presentation examining the near- and long-term deployment trends shaping the broadband industry and their impact on consumers. The panel will also address persistent barriers that can delay deployment or increase costs, share lessons learned in aligning technology solutions with specific deployment challenges, and discuss strategies to accelerate future broadband expansion.
Date, time and location of activity.	April 19, 2026-April 21, 2026 Eldorado Hotel and Spa 309 West San Francisco Santa Fe, NM 87501
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	Participation in this event will strengthen Massachusetts' telecommunications regulation and policy decision-making by facilitating robust information sharing and best-practice exchange on critical issues. It will also offer a national platform to advocate for policies aligned with the Commonwealth's priorities and deliver timely insight into emerging challenges and effective strategies impacting the telecommunications industry and Massachusetts consumers, especially in the deployment of broadband and new communications technologies.

	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	Jeanette Walter, Associate Director Center for Public Utilities
Address of person or organization.	MSC-3MPD Guthrie Hall, Room 400 New Mexico State University PO Box 30001 Las Cruces, NM 88003
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.* Air and Taxi Fare—Approximately $780.00
Lodging:	*Overnight accommodations.* $550.60
Meals:	*Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.* N/A
Admission:	*Registration, admission, tickets, etc.* $995 (Waived for speakers/conference panelists)
Other (please list):	*Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.* N/A
Total:	$2,325.60
Write an X beside any statement that applies.	**X I have attached the relevant itinerary.** **X I have attached the relevant agenda.**
Employee signature:	Karen Charles
Date:	1/29/2026

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:	3/31/24

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.