



**REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD J. ROSS**  
**9<sup>th</sup> NORFOLK DISTRICT**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**REPRESENTATIVE ROSS SUPPORTS EXPEDITED LOCAL PERMITTING**

BOSTON – State Representative Richard J. Ross (R-Wrentham) of the 9<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District recently lent his support to Governor Romney’s legislative proposal that would create an expedited permitting process and encourage business growth in Massachusetts.

The legislative proposal, offered by Governor Romney in June, would allow communities to opt-in specific sites rather than the entire city or town, eliminating one of the main barriers to expedited permitting. Municipalities that opt-in agree to complete the local permitting process in 180 days.

“Permitting can take up to five years to complete, making it extremely difficult for businesses here to expand and add jobs,” said Romney. “If we’re serious about encouraging business investment and expansion, we have to take a chainsaw to the red tape that ties up the process for years and years.”

In addition to the “opt-in” feature of the Governor’s proposal, technical assistance grants would be available to assist communities in updating their bylaws and procedures to comply with the reformed permitting process. The Office of Technical Assistance would also support municipalities wanting to update their permitting regulations.

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“I am acutely aware of the barriers that hinder economic development and I strongly support the Governor’s 43D reform proposal,” said Rep. Ross. “I believe that expedited local permitting would greatly benefit municipalities that seek a greater tax base.”

“Local communities cannot prevent economic change, but they sure can influence whether it will have a positive or negative impact,” commented Dan Guglielmo, CEO of Trust Design, a financial advisory firm that consults with businesses that want to expand in Massachusetts. “An expedited permitting process will assist the small, family-owned business, which is the **best** type of local economic growth.”

Representative Ross has spoken to various town officials in Walpole, Wrentham and Norfolk about the proposal and has received positive feedback.

