**Introduction and who you/we are**

Good Morning/afternoon, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I work as a municipal building official for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I live in the town/city of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I appreciate you making some time to discuss this important subject with me.

(if you know anything about this person add it here. Such as something they worked on or that they just were elected congrats etc. e.g. “great that you got that grant for the park in town...thanks for that”)

The reason I wanted to have a conversation and not just send an email is we are finding that most people in the commonwealth don't know what a building official really does. So I am here to answer any questions you may have.

* As a member of the Federation of Building Officials **I am one of over 800 individuals who are dedicated to ensuring *public safety* of the built environment in the commonwealth**. Our *profession* has changed significantly over the last 100 years.
* In addition to state law-based inspections of construction and use of structures, **we perform work as local l*aw enforcement*** (zoning, by/law, ordinances). This is the same enabling *police power* local police have to protect the welfare, safety, and heath of the public.
* **We are *required* to respond and actively participate in a wide variety of emergencies** including; accidents, fires, structural collapse, wind and flood events, and the like. Unlike most fire and police members, there are not dozens of us working shifts. In most cases there is only one building official in a community to perform this work.

Despite the *significant changes* to our profession, local municipal retirement boards are not interpreting MGL the same as the state retirement board. **The *state* building officials are classified as group 2. While the section was changed to include *state* building officials, it does not specifically call out “municipal.” We believe the intent of this section was to include local building officials.**

\*reference section from “introduction sheet” if needed. M.G.L. Section 3 of Chapter 32

At this time we are reaching out to our legislators to request support on this *clerical amendment.*

This amendment that we are seeking will be *filed in January* by Senator Velis 2nd Hampden and Hampshire and Representative Chan 2nd Norfolk.

The Federation of Building Officials will be sending communications about this but I thought it would be best to reach out as a ***local constituent*** to answer any questions you may have.

**Other talking points if there is time**

* Data shows that *code enforcement officers* and those working in the *construction industry* are some of the *most hazardous* occupations in the country.
* Municipal building officials *are exposed* to many of the same hazardous elements as fire fighters and in some cases more. This includes inspections of recent fire, collapse, flood etc. It also includes exposure to the hazardous chemicals used in construction e.g. spray foam, fiberglass insulation, finishes, asbestos, etc.
* The financial impact should not be a factor. This is an issue of what is fair and equitable. With **600 active building officials** state wide, it amounts to **1.7 employees per municipality**.

**Questions/ Closing**

(If they seem supportive, ask if they would be willing to co-sponsor the amendment.)

If you have any questions or anything else that you need please reach out by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you again for your time and all the hard work that you do.