To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LXIII, Section 5 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am disapproving Section 13 of Senate Bill No. 2743, “An Act Relative To The Preservation Of Dairy Farms.”

I am pleased to sign the remainder of the bill, which provides several measures to protect the Commonwealth’s dairy farms and provide long-term solutions to enhance the dairy and agricultural industry including:

* establishing a dairy farmer tax credit program to offset the cyclical downturns in milk prices paid to dairy farmers;
* allowing the use of discount coupons in promotional and marketing campaigns of milk and cream;
* providing a new option for Massachusetts dairy producers to redirect “milk check off” monies to a Dairy Promotion Fund; and,
* establishing a commission to study and recommend options for updating farming technology.

As drafted, however, section 13 of this bill includes an appropriation that is identical to the one provided in a bill I signed on August 12, 2008, House Bill Number, 5013 “An Act Authorizing the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Inc. to Operate, Manage and Maintain the Rose Kennedy Greenway” except that this bill does not include a $2 million appropriation to the Conservancy. Accordingly, enactment of section 13 would have the effect of repealing the funding for the Greenway Conservancy. To avoid this result, I am disapproving section 13 of this bill.

I am pleased to sign the remainder of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Deval Patrick,
Governor.