Send this message via mail or email to your State Representative, Senator, or to one or all of the following:

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| Governor Maura Healey  State House, 24 Beacon Street  Governor’s Office Room 280  Boston, MA 02133  Email: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office> | Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll  State House, 24 Beacon Street  Governor’s Office Room 280  Boston, MA 02133  Email: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office> | Jonathan Gulliver  MassDOT  10 Park Plaza  Boston, MA 02116  Email: [Jonathan.Gulliver@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Jonathan.Gulliver@dot.state.ma.us) |

Dear insert recipient’s name,

I am writing to ask for your leadership and assistance in helping to solve the litter problem here in the beautiful Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

From Cape Cod to Boston to the Berkshires, litter is visible along nearly every Massachusetts highway, sidewalk, public park and beach. Plastic, aluminum and glass beverage containers of all kinds, along with fast food trash, cigarette butts, vaping devices, plastic bags, nip bottles and other common types of litter are found everywhere. Along our interstate highways, the problem is more acute, with discarded tires, car parts, construction materials, styrofoam, plastic buckets, plastic wrapping and “flyaway” litter from truckers marring the landscape.

Every year, thousands of volunteers from the nonprofit **Keep Massachusetts Beautiful** (KMB) spend countless hours battling the ever-growing piles of litter. Despite these efforts, volunteers are only cleaning up a fraction of the litter and much of it remains untouched or makes its way into our streams, rivers and oceans.

The mess in Massachusetts sends the message that Massachusetts leaders really do not prioritize our state’s appearance or environmental health. For a state with an economy that relies heavily on tourism dollars, is this the message we want to be sending?

In addition to being an eyesore, the Massachusetts litter problem costs the state and its taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts state government devotes little to any money or effort toward **LITTER PREVENTION.**

Rather than simply accepting the deplorable appearance of our roadsides and public spaces, KMB has been taking action since 2014 to clean up the mess in Massachusetts. Together with its 40 local chapters across the state, volunteers participate in the annual **Great Massachusetts Cleanup**. In 2024, these volunteers collected and removed 150+ tons of litter and debris. The estimated value of these volunteer hours is $750,000. KMB is a state-level affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s largest community improvement organization (learn more at [www.keepmassbeautiful.org](http://www.keepmassbeautiful.org)).

Unfortunately, these volunteer efforts alone are not adequate to solve the Massachusetts litter problem. To make meaningful long-term improvements, our government leaders need to launch a proactive, comprehensive plan to build awareness, educate the public, enforce law, and clean up the mess that lies untouched by human hands.

I urge you to support the creation of a statewide **Massachusetts Litter Prevention & Cleanup Task Force, as outlined in** [**SD.1867**](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1867), sponsored by Senator Paul Feeney.

A key component of this Task Force would be to launch an **Anti-Litter Public Awareness Campaign** that would include:

* A consistent anti-littering slogan and message: **From the Cape to the Berkshires: Love it—Don’t Trash it!**
* Messaging would be displayed on electronic message boards along our highways year-round, as well as on MassDOT-managed and donated billboards
* Public Service Announcements (PSA) would be broadcast on TV and radio, local cable access channels, social media, and be integrated with Registry of Motor Vehicles communications to drivers

Other states across the U.S. have PSA campaigns that raise awareness about litter prevention for residents and visitors alike. Some examples include:

* **Rhode Island: Clean Rhodes** ([www.dot.ri.gov/projects/CleanRhodes](http://www.dot.ri.gov/projects/CleanRhodes))
* **Don’t Mess With Texas** (<https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org>)
* **Tennessee: Nobody Trashes Tennessee** ([www.nobodytrashestennessee.com](http://www.nobodytrashestennessee.com))
* **Delaware: Keep Delaware Litter Free** ([www.governor.delaware.gov/litter-free](http://www.governor.delaware.gov/litter-free))
* **Virginia: Virginia is For Lovers, Not Litter** ([www.loversnotlitter.org](http://www.loversnotlitter.org))

**KMB’s online petition calling for the creation of a Massachusetts Litter Prevention & Cleanup Task Force already has 5,200+ supporters (see** [**www.change.org/litterfreemass**](http://www.change.org/litterfreemass)**).** In addition to an Anti-Litter Public Awareness Campaign, additional litter prevention solutions should include:

* **Increased funding for MassDOT to combat highway litter.** MassDOT currently lacks the personnel and funding it needs to keep up with the heavy volume of litter. With more resources and an increased focus on litter cleanup, crews could work year-round to prevent the deplorable conditions that currently exist.
* **Increased enforcement of existing anti-littering and illegal dumping laws**. Judging by the mess along our roadsides, the number of littering tickets issued in Massachusetts is quite low. If Massachusetts did more to enforce its anti-littering laws, this could change behaviors. Stricter enforcement of trucks with uncovered loads and illegal dumping would also have an enormous impact.
* **Dedicated funding in the state budget to support Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.** In many other states, Keep America Beautiful state-level affiliates receive ongoing state funding. In exchange, these affiliates promote the state’s Adopt-a-Highway and Sponsor-a-Highway programs, coordinate local and statewide litter cleanups, and administer educational programs focused on litter prevention and cleanup. Every $1 invested in Keep America Beautiful affiliates yields a significant return on investment, without the cost of hiring permanent state employees.

The time for Massachusetts state leaders to act on this issue is long past due. A cleaner, litter-free landscape is good for Massachusetts businesses, the economy, our residents and our environment. Please provide the leadership and financial support we need to clean up the mess in Massachusetts and implement lasting solutions to our state’s litter problem. For more information, please contact Neil Rhein, KMB’s Executive Director, at [neil@keepmassbeautiful.org](about:blank) or 508-320-8621.

Sincerely,

I reside in:

Below are actual photos of some of the horrendously littered Massachusetts roadsides and public spaces.

A sign on the side of a fence

Description automatically generated

A close up of some grass

Description automatically generatedAn empty park bench next to a fence

Description automatically generated

 A bag of empty bottles and a can on the ground

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