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Boston Properties, Inc.
www.bxp.com
(NYSE: BXP)

February 21, 2024

Via Regular Mail and Electronic Mail

The Honorable Maura Healey
Governor of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Boston MA 02133

Re: Greater Cambridge Energy Program

Dear Governor Healey,

Boston

Los Angeles

New York

San Francisco

Seattle

Washington, DC

I am writing in support of the Greater Cambridge Energy Program (GCEP) proposed by Eversource Energy and to ask you to urge the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) to act promptly and approve the project by June 2024. The GCEP is vital to bolster electric system reliability, meet growing energy needs, and enable access to clean energy resources in Cambridge, a global center of innovation.

Eversource Energy filed initial plans for the project in March 2022, and has since refined its plans based on community input gathered through a thorough outreach process. Current plans call for the construction of a new underground electrical substation in Kendall Square, together with five underground duct banks housing eight new 115-kV transmission lines to connect the new substation to existing facilities in Allston, Cambridge, and Somerville. The project is being integrated into a mixed-use development being undertaken by BXP on a site previously occupied by an above-ground parking garage, which will include 439 units of rental housing (25% of which are inclusionary) and Astra Zeneca's new Kendall Square R&D Hub.

This forward-looking and innovative plan – the underground substation would be the first of its kind in the United States – is **necessary to enable electrification, access to clean energy and sustain reliable electric service**. Eversource has said that the electrical network in Cambridge and nearby areas is operating near the limit of its capacity, due to significant increases in demand. A delayed decision by the EFSB will only prolong this obviously concerning situation in an area that is one of Massachusetts' major economic and technological engines.

The GCEP also **supports the Commonwealth's emissions reduction goals** by enabling further deployment of green energy. Massachusetts should signal its full support for decarbonization and electrification by giving prompt approval to major projects that contribute to the achievement of these goals.

On a project of this massive scope, it takes time to procure the necessary supplies and equipment – a step that cannot be started until approval is firmly in hand. Timely action



by the EFSB will allow Eversource to begin these first steps that are necessary to start work promptly and **enable on-time completion**.

Finally, I'll reiterate that Eversource has worked closely with the cities of Cambridge and Somerville as part of a lengthy and open community input process. State Representative Mike Connolly, who represents Cambridge and Somerville, recently wrote to the Department of Public Utilities and EFSB to acknowledge the outreach, support the project, and call for quick approval. The project has widespread support from the City of Cambridge and nearby neighborhoods. The GCEP, in its current form, is **the best of all worlds** – a project that incorporates public opinion from the communities it serves. This program is fully deserving of timely approval.

I appreciate any action you can take to encourage the EFSB to promptly approve the GCEP, preferably by this coming June. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach me at 617-236-3307 or bkoop@bxp.com.

Sincerely,



Bryan J. Koop
EVP – Boston Region

CC (all via email):

Kim Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Yi-An Huang, City Manager, City of Cambridge
Tom Evans, Executive Director, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
Catherine Finneran, Vice President, Eversource
Jerry Fortier, Vice President, Eversource
Maija Benjamins, Director, Eversource
Jeffrey Lowenberg, BXP
Madeleine Timin, BXP
Keir Evan, BXP