

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 504**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide direct investment for job creation and business expansion in rural communities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 504**

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By Ms. Blais of Sunderland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 504) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark for legislation to authorize the Department of Housing and Economic Development to provide direct investment for job creation and business expansion in rural communities. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to provide direct investment for job creation and business expansion in rural communities.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following subsection  
2 in Section 16G:-

3 (o.)The secretary of housing and economic development shall, in consultation with the  
4 Rural Policy Advisory Commission, establish a rural development initiative to be administered  
5 by the executive office through a contract with the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency  
6 established by section 2 of chapter 23G. The initiative will provide technical assistance to  
7 identify and implement strategies that will spur direct investment in rural communities to create  
8 jobs and expand businesses, identify cross-sector partnerships, accelerate the engagement of  
9 community members in actionable planning, and implement local economic development  
10 initiatives.