SENATE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/14/2009

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PRESENTED BY:

**Karen E. Spilka**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act assisting towns to create quiet zones for at-grade rail crossings.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Karen E. Spilka | Second Middlesex and Norfolk |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S02088 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act assisting towns to create quiet zones for at-grade rail crossings.

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

SECTION 1. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, are hereby amended by adding the following new Chapter:

Chapter 161E

Section 1. Subject to appropriation, the Secretary of Transportation shall create a Quiet Zone Assistance Grant. Any public authority eligible to apply for the creation of a “Quiet Zone” as defined by the United States Secretary of Transportation under authority of 49 U.S.C. 20153 may apply for a Quiet Zone Assistance Grant for financial aid for the improvements necessary to create said Quiet Zone. Eligible improvements must meet the standards specified by 49 U.S.C. 20153 and the United States Secretary of Transportation for said Quiet Zones, and may include, but are not limited to, Four-Quadrant Gate Systems, Gates with Medians or Channelization Devices, One-Way Streets with Gates, Photographic enforcement, Programmed Enforcements, and Public Education and Awareness programs. Any public authority may be eligible for a Quiet Zone Assistance Grant up to fifty percent of the total cost to implement a new Quiet Zone.