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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Scott Ferson
617.571.9595 cell
617.695.0369 office

Amy Lambiaso
781.504.5801

MOSES: STATE'S CULTURE OF CONSULTANTS HURTING TAXPAYERS

Joe Dorant, president of the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists, on Friday called for the state to correct the culture of consultants that is wasting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars each year by outsourcing bridge inspections and repairs to private contractors. Dorant said he looks forward to working with the Patrick Administration to correct the problem.

The findings were uncovered by WCVB's investigative team this week, and have real implications for taxpayers. For example, if state engineers were utilized for the repairs and inspections called for under the administration's \$3.8 billion bridge program, roughly one-third more bridges could see improvements because the excessive overhead costs would be eliminated, Dorant said.

"This type of behavior grabs the headlines when there's a tragedy, but it's been going on for years in Massachusetts and it needs to be addressed," Dorant said. "It's wasting taxpayer money and it's a system that lacks accountability."

According to the news report, bridge inspections and repairs often cost taxpayers double when they are performed by private consultants, rather than by engineers already employed by the state. The Gilmore Bridge in Cambridge would have cost taxpayers roughly \$18,000 had the state performed the inspection, but the price tag instead rose to more than \$42,000. Similarly, work on the Neponset River bridge in Boston cost \$1.1 million, when it could have cost \$561,000 if performed by state engineers.

"The Patrick Administration's early support for accountability and the implementation of a long-term plan is a positive sign and presents a good framework to correct this systemic problem," Dorant said. "We are committed to maximizing the resources available to fix our ailing infrastructure to protect the public's safety on the roads and bridges."

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