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Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

To: Selectboards of the Towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield & Warwick

From: Alan Genovese, Chair, Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

cc: Town Clerks of the Towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield & Warwick

Date: August 27, 2026

Re: Recommendation and Request to Schedule Election

Please be advised that at its meeting on August 26, 2026, the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board ("STRPB"), voted to recommend the establishment of the Great River Regional School District ("GRRSD") consisting of either six or five towns; to approve proposed regional agreements for both a six-town and a five-town regional school district model; and to request that each Selectboard schedule a special election to present the question of approval of the new regional school district to the voters of each town.

Copies of the proposed regional agreements and the STRPB's Long Range Plan are attached to this memorandum, and are available on the STRPB's website 6towns.org.

On August 25, 2026, the Governor signed into law special legislation enacted by the legislature authorizing all six towns to seek approval of the new regional school district by special election, notwithstanding the provisions of M.G.L. c. 71, § 15 which would otherwise have required approval in some towns by Town Meeting. The wording of the ballot question is being finalized and will be provided to each town in the coming days.

In the interest of efficiency, minimizing the burden on each Town's resources, and maximizing the opportunity for voters in all towns, the STRPB requests that all six towns schedule their elections to occur on October 6, 2026, during the same hours that the election concerning the financing for the Franklin County Technical School's building project is scheduled to take place in each of the six towns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.