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November 10, 2025

Emma Coburn, Town Clerk
Town of Colrain
55 Main Road
Colrain, MA 01340

Re: Colrain Annual Town Meeting of June 6, 2025 – Case # 12011
Warrant Article # 16 (General)

Dear Ms. Coburn:

Article 16 - We approve Article 16 from the June 6, 2025 Colrain Annual Town Meeting. Our comments on Article 16 are provided below.

Under Article 16 the Town amends its general by-laws to add a new revolving fund by-law, "Departmental Revolving Funds." The DOR/DLS has published several informational guidelines to provide information regarding municipal revenues and revolving funds. In particular, DOR/DLS has published Bulletin 2017-01B, "Authorization of Departmental Revolving Funds and Model By-law/Ordinance: https://www.mass.gov/doc/departmental-revolving-funds-model-bylaw-ordinance-and-annual-spending-cap-vote/download and an "Overview of Statutory Treatment of Municipal Revenues:" https://www.mass.gov/doc/statutory-treatment-of-municipal-revenue-overview/download.

The Town should ensure that any deposits into a revolving fund are properly from "fees, charges or other receipts" associated with a specific departmental program or activity and that the funds are expended in connection with that specific program or activity, not for the general use of the department and consult with Town Counsel with any questions.

Note: Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the Town has first satisfied the posting/publishing requirements of that statute.

Very truly yours,

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cc: Town Counsel Lauren F. Goldberg