

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20540-2107

July 15, 2009

Mr. Ian Bowles, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

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MEPA

Dear Secretary Bowles,

The Town of Framingham has been working with EOEPA Departments on the Birch Road Well Reactivation project for over five years and it is now before MEPA (# 14197). This project incorporates a significant effort that will result in substantial benefits to the residents and businesses within the Town of Framingham while also providing continued protection of a tremendous natural resource. Very importantly, this project will also incorporate sustainable features and energy efficiencies.

I join the Town with my personal support of this project and their intent to utilize the local water supply resources that they have owned for over 70 years. The positive financial effect of the Birch Road Wells Reactivation project is very important to the Town as it will help to offset rising utility rates. The water and sewer rates are projected to increase as the Town undertakes a significant capital program to restore an aging and deteriorated infrastructure. This problem faces most of our urban communities and I applaud the Town of Framingham for finding a creative way to recognize their responsibility while relieving their residents of a portion of the financial burden.

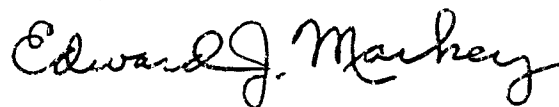
In recognition of the significant benefits this project brings to the Town, and to the continued protection of this local water resource, I ask for your consideration in helping us continue to move this effort along swiftly. This project is highly ranked on the State's Revolving Fund Loan Program and is therefore designated to receive millions of dollars of Federal ARRA assistance. These funds will be available to the Town only if the project meets a very strict and fast paced schedule.

I am confident that the issues that were identified by state agencies and others in response to the EENF are adequately addressed in this extensive Draft EIR. Therefore, consistent with the Procedural section of your MEPA Certificate, the Town has requested that the Draft be considered a Final EIR. Under the eligibility requirements established by the State and Federal guidelines, recognizing this Draft as the Final is the only way that the MEPA process will sustain the Town's eligibility for these ARRA funds. I respectfully ask that you consider this request as appropriate.

In addition, we are confident that any subsequent conditioning and mitigation of the permitting issues you defined in the Jurisdiction section of the aforementioned Certificate be appropriately handled during the individual permitting processes.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Harutunian of my Medford District Office at (781) 396-2900 or via email at [Matt.Harutunian@mail.house.gov](mailto:Matt.Harutunian@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey