



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts *Jay*
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054 *David*

PAM RICHARDSON
REPRESENTATIVE
6TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

RECEIVED
JUL 28 2009
MEPA

Committees on:
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling
House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight

ROOM 448, STATE HOUSE
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July 22, 2009

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street – Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RECEIVED
JUL 24 2009
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Dear Secretary Bowles:

I write to you today in full support of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Framingham’s Birch Road Wellfield and Water Treatment Plant project.

The Town of Framingham has been working with the various departments of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) on the Birch Road Well Reactivation project for more than five years now and it currently is before MEPA (# 14197). As you may know, this project incorporates a significant effort that will result in substantial long term benefits for my Framingham constituents while also providing for the sustained protection of a tremendous natural resource that belongs to the Town. This project will also incorporate sustainable features and energy efficiencies that are designed into the Water Resource Center that houses the highly advanced water treatment function.

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.

Consistent with your note in the MEPA Certificate, the Town has requested that the Draft be considered a Final EIR. Recognizing the Draft EIR as the Final is the only way that the MEPA process will sustain the Town’s eligibility for these ARRA funds. They are confident that the issues that were identified by state agencies and others in response to the Expanded ENF are adequately addressed in this EIR. I wholeheartedly support this direction.

The positive financial effect of the Birch Road Wells Reactivation project is very important to the Town's residents as it will help to offset rising utility rates. As you are aware water and sewer rates are projected to increase as we continue a significant capital program to restore an aging and deteriorated infrastructure. Having the full support of our Board of Selectman and a near unanimous vote of Town Meeting, Framingham has found a creative way to recognize this responsibility while relieving their residents of a portion of the financial burden.

On behalf of the Town, I thank you for your consideration of this important project. As always, if you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "R".

Pam Richardson
State Representative
6th Middlesex, Framingham
(617) 722-2582

Cc: Julian M. Suso, Framingham Town Manager
Peter A. Sellers, Director, Framingham DPW