



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Chairwoman Angela M. O'Connor
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Secretary Beaton and Chairwoman O'Connor:

As legislators representing the communities of Hudson, Marlborough, Stow and Sudbury, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the Eversource plan to construct a transmission line along the abandoned MBTA rail line that runs through these four communities. Instead, we recommend that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Energy Facilities Siting Board, and therefore the Baker-Polito administration, rule that Eversource build this transmission line under the roads of these four communities.

Over the past month, we have attended Board of Selectmen meetings, public hearings, met with constituents, and received hundreds of calls and emails from residents of these four communities, almost all in unison expressing serious concern over the impact of Eversource's proposed path to build a transmission line to improve reliability of the delivery of power to the region.

While we support improving the system's reliability, we believe the proposed path will not serve our constituents well, for a variety of reasons.

First of all, this proposed transmission line along the MBTA railbed would result in a clear-cutting of at least an 82 foot wide swath of trees and vegetation along the transmission route, having a negative environmental impact on these four communities, and especially on abutters to this proposed transmission route.

This land is important not just for the abutters, however. Rather, a great deal of this land is considered sacred by the residents of Hudson, Marlborough, Stow and Sudbury, and in fact people from across Massachusetts. Over the past few decades, residents have proactively voted


to protect open space along the proposed route, and state and federal agencies, and elected officials, have gone to great lengths to protect this area from development.

This has led to the establishment of the Hop Brook Conservation Land, the Sudbury Valley Trustees Memorial Forest, and the Assabet Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Marlborough-Sudbury State Forest, and the Cranberry Well property, all publicly-protected land that include wetlands, vernal pools, and significant rivers and streams.

While Eversource has made the point that an alternative route to constructing the transmission route along the MBTA railbed would be more expensive to Eversource ratepayers, we would respectfully respond and ask, what price do you put on the clear-cutting and despoiling of precious conservation land, beautiful views, ecological diversity, and taxpayer-funded open space?

There is a clear and reasonable alternative to the proposed Eversource transmission line route, and we ask that as your review Eversource's application, that you order Eversource to construct its transmission route along the roads of these four Metrowest communities, and not along much-loved protected lands.

Sincerely,



James B. Eldridge
State Senator
Middlesex & Worcester District



Kate Hogan
State Representative
Third Middlesex District



Carmine L. Gentile
State Representative
Thirteenth Middlesex District

cc: Mark Reed, Director of Government Affairs, Eversource
Mayor *Arthur G. Vigeant*, *City of Marlborough*
Brian Choquette, Manager, Hudson Light and Power Department
Thomas Moses, Executive Assistant, Town of Hudson
William Wrigley, Town Administrator, Town of Stow
Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Town Manager, Town of Sudbury