

January 21, 2021

Via E-mail:

Dear Conservation Commission members:

Thank you very much for your service to our community. The work that you do is so vitally important to our ability to maintain the beautiful natural landscape that exists in Sudbury. I write to you today in my individual capacity as a resident of Sudbury.

I have significant concerns regarding Eversource's Notice of Intent you are considering. In my opinion, there is absolutely no way the harm caused to the land along the Mass. Central Railway can be in any way mitigated or restored. I have very strong concerns that the impacts from this project will create irreparable harm, including but not limited to the following: destruction of natural vegetation, adverse impacts to wildlife, destruction of natural habitats and rare species, negative impacts to our water, destroy historic characteristics found on the land, and physical harm to our residents by the use of herbicides and certain chemicals.

It is the latter impact that concerns me the most as it directly pertains to the health and well-being of our residents. Evidence exists that certain chemicals and herbicides potentially pose a risk of physical harm. It is my opinion that we need to aggressively oppose this project to prevent any exposure of harm to our residents. I understand that Eversource is not willing to indemnify our community for any harm caused by the application of herbicides and chemicals. For this reason, this project will expose our town to potential significant liability in the event our residents are taken ill through the action and inaction of Eversource. Any potential benefit of the installation of a rail trail along the Mass. Central Rail line is outweighed by the health risks alone posed to our residents. I am not willing to risk the health and well-being of our community members for any purpose. I hope that you feel the same way.

With regard to the other impacts, there is no feasible or achievable way to substantially restore the vegetation that is lost by the installation of the electrical lines underground. In my opinion the installation of these lines will

constitute a permanent disturbance to the land along the trail in violation of your By-Laws. Additionally, I am concerned about damage to vegetation and wildlife that will occur to other areas of our land as a direct and proximate result of the work Eversource will do to install the underground lines along the rail. The negative impacts of this project will forever change our town in a manner that I believe is not truly recognized. Stripping our community of irreplaceable vegetation spanning a 10-50 feet wide swath of land for 2.5 miles will forever change our community and negatively impact our environment and wildlife forever.

I also have extensive concerns about the long-terms costs to maintain the impacted areas from a conservation perspective, but also an ordinary daily maintenance perspective.

For the above referenced reasons, I hope the Conservation Commission will exercise its discretion and reject the applicant's Notice of Intent. The negative impacts and risks posed to our resource areas outweigh any benefit the community could derive from this project.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Very truly yours,

Lisa V. Kouchakdjian
30 Meadowbrook Circle