



Stephanie M Burke
Mayor

City of Medford

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October 23, 2018

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor - Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

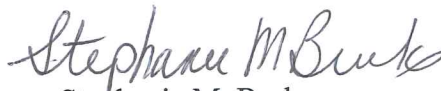
Dear Governor Baker,

As Mayor of the City of Medford, I would like to express my opposition of the proposal to construct a “Middlesex Fells Recreational Facility” in the Lawrence Woods area of Medford. To be precise, lines 483 through 485 of H4549 proposed by Representative Michael Day, representing Stoneham and Winchester, does not have the best interest of Medford residents.

The parcel of land for the proposed facility is located within an abandoned military site. Since the abandonment, the Middlesex Fells Reservation has been cared for and maintained by numerous volunteers, DCR employees, scout troops as well as students from Medford. Preserving this forest remains a key priority, as it is home to 130 different plant species, 67 butterfly species, and an Audubon Important Bird Area. Currently, this is the only uncontaminated open meadow in the Middlesex Fells, which serves as a popular destination for many to enjoy the outdoors.

In addition, we question the impact on Article 97 on this precious open space. This proposed project would not only destroy the meadow, it would also diminish a critical outdoor resource within our community that is utilized for both learning experiences and recreational activities. Allowing a recreational facility to be built on this 90 mm parcel negatively affects the residents of Medford as well as citizens of the Commonwealth. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Respectfully,


Stephanie M. Burke
Mayor

CC: State Representative Paul Donato

State Representative Christine Barber

State Representative Sean Garballey

Senator Patricia Jehlen

Leo Roy, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Richard Caraviello, President, Medford City Council

John Falco, Medford City Council

George Scarpelli, Medford City Council

Fredrick Dello Russo, Medford City Council

Michael Marks, Medford City Council

Adam Knight, Medford City Council

Breanna Lungo Koehn, Medford City Council

Alicia Hunt, Director of Energy and Environment

Ron Morin, Executive Director, Friends of the Fells

Friends of the Fells