



Representative James Murphy  
Massachusetts State House of Representatives  
Room 443  
Boston, MA 02133-1054

November 7, 2021

Dear Rep. Murphy,

I hope that you are all doing well this beautiful fall season. The Back River Watershed Association has been working on many projects over this year. The BRWA continues our mission with improvements needed in infrastructure in the watershed including the SNUP dam removal at the Libby Parkway.

BRWA supports the Town of Weymouth's plan to remove the incinerator and stack at Wharf Street on the banks of the Weymouth Back River. Our founder, Mary F. Toomey, always believed that we must work to remove it to prevent the continuing contamination of the land and Back River. She encouraged BRWA to support the cleanup of the area and maintain it as open space. We strongly believe the cleanup should also include the contaminated Durante Property. This property floods with every high tide causing its pollutants to flow directly into the Back River. BRWA has also documented the negative impacts of the Wharf Street Pumping station due to flooding combined with its aging and corroded infrastructure/sewer lines. The salt water of the inter-tidal zone is hastening the corrosion of this aged infrastructure by salt water and use.

As you know, Weymouth's Master Plan, which features The Weymouth Back River and estuary, is an important part of a healthy ecosystem that supports the restoration of our depleted fisheries throughout the region. BRWA is grateful to you and your Office as our Representative for your years of work and continuing support for the protection and improvements to the historic Weymouth Back River.

We appreciate your work to create The Back River Trail that connects our beautiful and historical open space parks - Abigail Adams State Park and Great Esker Park in North Weymouth, to Osprey Overlook Park and the Weymouth Herring Run in East Weymouth.

Since 2003, BRWA has maintained the Mary F. Toomey Memorial Garden at the Abigail Adams State Park. Our volunteers have honored the memory of First Lady Abigail Adams and Mary F. Toomey Educator, Environmentalist, Weymouth Town Meeting Member, Author. BRWA cares for the gardens with plantings and clean-up days each spring and summer. Unfortunately, some years ago vandals entered the Abigail Adams State Park with a pickup truck and stole drain hole covers leaving dangerous open holes where people or pets could have been hurt. Fortunately, the drain hole covers were replaced. The problem remains that the vandals also stole one of the beautiful bronze plaques with a famous quote by Abigail Adams referring to her concerns about slavery which read as follows:

The Back River Watershed Association is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization organized to preserve, protect, and promote the Back River and its watershed in Weymouth, Hingham, and parts of Abington, Rockland & Braintree.

Visit us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Back-River-Watershed-Association>

or at our website

<https://www.backriverwatershed.org>



*"I wish most sincerely there was not a slave in this province. It always appeared a most iniquitous scheme to me - to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have."*

*Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams  
September 22, 1774*

Weymouth is preparing to celebrate its 400th Anniversary, a time of great pride for the past, present and hope for our future. BRWA sincerely hopes, with the support from your Office and DCR, that this stolen plaque can be replaced before then. I have made this unresolved problem known to DCR years ago without any response.

Thank You for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to planning the Back River Boat Tour with you next July.

Sincerely Yours,

Linda J. DiAngelo  
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cc: Mary Roy, Chief of Staff