



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Governor Charles D. Baker
Massachusetts State House
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

November 28, 2018

RE: Amelia Earhart Dam Improvement Appropriation

Dear Governor Baker:

We write to respectfully request that you appropriate the \$5 million in capital spending authorized in item 2800-7025 of Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2018 to evaluate pumping capacity and install a fourth pump for the Amelia Earhart Dam.


The DCR-managed Amelia Earhart Dam on the Mystic River between Somerville and Everett is a critical piece of infrastructure that prevents both coastal and stormwater flooding especially in the upstream communities of Somerville, Malden, Medford, Everett, Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington. Thousands of residents and businesses rely on the dam's protection, along with regional assets such as the Alewife MBTA Station and adjacent Eversource electric substation, Assembly Row and large swaths of Route 16.


Unfortunately, the lack of pumping capacity at the dam threatens these upstream communities. The dam only has three pumps, but there is room to build a fourth. Storms already force the dam to utilize all three pumps to prevent flooding with no backup pump. Other dams, like the 6-pump New Charles River Dam, have built in resiliency. Without this resiliency, climate change or larger storms could cause a disaster. According to Cambridge's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the dam could be flanked as early as 2045 or overtopped as early as 2055 by storms similar in strength to the 2018 Nor'easters. The dam was built in 1966 to prevent coastal flooding from extending far into low-lying inland communities built on filled marshlands. Cambridge's vulnerability assessment indicates that flooding extent and depth would be substantial in upstream Mystic River communities if one or more of the Amelia Earhart Dam pumps were to fail.


Adding a fourth pump to the dam is a top regional climate resilience priority for our communities and it the process should begin immediately. The amount authorized will cover the engineering study and the beginning of the capital project. We ask that you include the full \$5 million in your capital investment plan.


Thank you for your consideration.

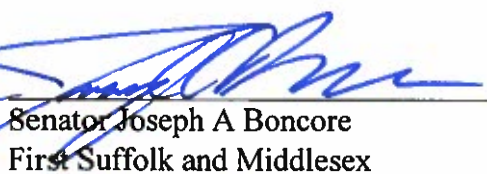
Sincerely,


Senator Patricia D. Vehlen
Second Middlesex

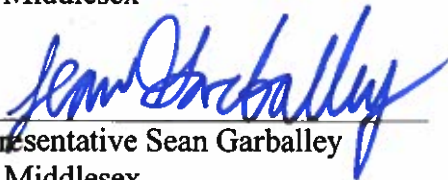

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico
Middlesex and Suffolk



Senator William N. Brownsberger
Second Suffolk and Middlesex


Senator Jason M. Lewis
Fifth Middlesex


Senator Joseph A. Boncore
First Suffolk and Middlesex

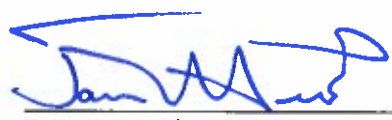

Representative Mike Connolly
26th Middlesex


Representative Sean Garballey
23rd Middlesex


Representative Paul J. Donato
35th Middlesex


Representative Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex

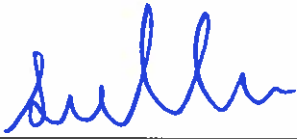

Representative Michael S. Day
31st Middlesex


Representative Jonathan Hecht
29th Middlesex

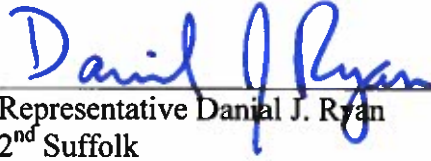

Representative Paul Brodeur
32nd Middlesex


Representative Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
28th Middlesex


Representative Marjorie C. Decker
25th Middlesex



Representative Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex



Representative Daniel J. Ryan
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Representative Denise Provost
27th Middlesex



Representative David M. Rogers
24th Middlesex

Cc: Secretary Matthew Beaton
Secretary Michael J. Heffernan
Commissioner Leo Roy