

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF LEE

Deidre Consolati
57 Main Street
Lee MA 01238
February 3, 2008

Ian Bowles,
Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: ACEC Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 700
Boston MA 02114

Honorable Secretary Bowles:

I am writing to request that you maintain the original boundaries of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation as set forth for Lee.

The proposal by Lee officials to exempt certain businesses from the ACEC title, and a recommendation by the Lee Planning Board to create new and different borders, may serve to create confusion about an otherwise clear plan presented by Save The Housatonic.

When I was young the Housatonic River ran pink, then blue, then another color on days the dyes were changed at the paper mills. During those years the Lee portion of the river also absorbed pollution coming from Pittsfield, to the north, *making Lee today the most highly PCB-polluted stretch of any river in the world.* We are desperate to receive your agency's undivided attention—without the compromise of boundary changes.

Business and industry brought jobs to the town over the decades, but it came at a cost. Today, with climate change a threat, communities are beginning to understand that some things need to change: 30 speakers, 170 people attended the hearing. There, testimony was given that other towns in Massachusetts did not suffer business and industry losses after an ACEC program was implemented.

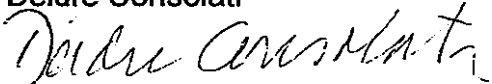
“We see the (ACEC) designation as another line of defense against inappropriate development” stated the Berkshire Eagle two days later. “Boards and agencies with jurisdiction in this area should have no trouble satisfying the requirements of the ACEC.”

If, as one speaker noted "in the long run, the ACEC creates a partnership and new relations between developers and their communities" what is there to be afraid of?

Honorable Secretary, please keep the original boundaries intact in Lee and support the need for business and community to work together in the future.

Yours truly,

Deidre Consolati



Chair

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