

TOWN OF SUDBURY

Office of Selectmen
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278 Old Sudbury Rd
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843
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Matthew Beaton
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

May 24, 2016

Dear Secretary Beaton,

The Sudbury Board of Selectmen has voted unanimously to oppose the Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project, which would construct 4.3 miles of high voltage transmission lines through Sudbury on the MBTA right-of-way and include the use of potentially dangerous herbicides.

Our Board is deeply concerned about Eversource's plan to clear cut 82-foot wide swaths of protected forest conservation land and use potentially poisonous herbicides to prevent trees, foliage and other plants from growing back. This poses a serious threat to the environment and vital conservation land and creates health and safety risks for residents – including families that live near and abut the proposed project. About 500 homes located within range of air contamination could experience adverse economic and safety impacts.

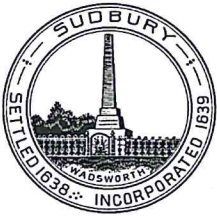
Further, about 1.7 miles of the proposed route falls within a Zone II area of the Sudbury Water District's gravel pack wells, which supply the sole source of drinking water for our 18,000 residents. The Town and the Water District are deeply concerned about potential contamination of the groundwater and possible public health risks. Remediation, if possible, would be extremely costly. The importance of protecting and safeguarding our water supply cannot be overstated, as the recent experience of Flint, Michigan illustrates.

To date, Eversource has failed to provide adequate information about the specific herbicides it plans to use for this project. Instead, the utility continues to circumvent this key issue with lists of various state agencies and manufacturers.

It's no secret that spraying herbicides can harm the environment, hurt plants and animals that inhabit these areas and create public health risks. In fact, one approved vegetation control herbicide is glyphosate, a substance that is banned in several countries and one the World Health Organization's cancer assessment agency has labeled a "probable carcinogen."

Non-toxic alternatives are available and Eversource should commit to implementing a herbicide free policy through Massachusetts. At the very least, additional study and analysis is needed to ensure that the herbicides Eversource has proposed using in the Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project will not endanger the environment, animals or public health. In some places, the 82-foot buffer zone this project proposes would actually include private property, thus directly exposing residents to harmful and carcinogenic chemicals.

Respected environmental groups in Sudbury have also formally registered their opposition to the proposed Eversource project and the use of herbicides in any location. The Sudbury Valley Trustees and



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Conservation Commission have been working to protect vital habitats in our community for decades, and both organizations oppose the current Eversource plan due in part to the environmental risks it presents.

The entire Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project is fundamentally flawed due to its environmental, health and safety risks, significant visual pollution, and adverse financial and safety impacts on residents and businesses. In particular, the long-term environmental and health risks from using herbicides far outweigh any short-term financial savings Eversource may generate from using these chemicals.

The Board of Selectmen takes the threat that this project poses very seriously. We request your intervention in this matter and ask that the Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project be postponed until further study and analysis can be undertaken to fully understand the multitude of risks associated with the use of herbicides and the larger impact of this proposal on the town of Sudbury.

Sincerely,

SUDBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Susan N. Juliano, Chairman

Charles C. Woodard, Vice-Chairman

Robert C. Haarde

Leonard A. Simon

CC: Rebecca L. McEnroe, Sudbury Water District Superintendent