

## Ecological Restoration Form Letter

Dear MEPA Director Kim,

I strongly support the proposed changes to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations that would streamline the review process for Ecological Restoration Limited Projects. This would expand the number of beneficial restoration projects that would qualify for faster and easier review through the MEPA process.

I also request that you consider further changes to the regulations such as modifying the review thresholds to enable more restoration projects to proceed without MEPA review or with only an Environmental Notification Form rather than a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Ecological Restoration projects are, by definition, beneficial projects that restore wetlands and waterways that have been destroyed or degraded by past human activities.

Massachusetts is fortunate to have strong wetlands protection laws that prevent most new impacts from development today, but the legacy of historic impacts is extensive. Many wetlands statewide are severely damaged, degraded and fragmented by old ditches, embankments, and fill. Thousands of obsolete dams and inadequate culverts block natural flows and passage of fish and wildlife and pose risks of washing out during intense storms. Our salt marshes are sinking and eroding at alarming rates due to old ditches and embankments that divert water and kill marsh vegetation.

Reversing the damage at scale will restore the public benefits wetlands provide and make them more resilient to the impacts of sea level rise, more intense storm events, and more frequent droughts.

Regulatory systems designed to prevent loss and damage to wetlands from development are escalating costs and slowing down progress on restoration. Restoration actions that take days or weeks to implement can require many months or even years of regulatory review, costing tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars per project. A new approach is needed to advance beneficial restoration projects in a cost-effective way, at a pace that matches the scope of work needed to support the Commonwealth's climate, biodiversity, social and economic goals.

I urge you to modify the MEPA regulations to make wetland restoration faster, easier, and less expensive. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

## Signatories (84 total)

Date	Signatory
11/2/2025	Al Nierenberg
11/2/2025	Anca Vlasopolos
11/2/2025	Angela Garabet
11/2/2025	Arleen Teel
11/2/2025	Elizabeth Gifford
11/2/2025	Elizabeth Goodfellow
11/2/2025	Gretchen Schultz-Ellison
11/2/2025	John Metcalf
11/2/2025	Judith Embry
11/2/2025	Julia Maynard
11/2/2025	Kathleen Mortenson
11/2/2025	Kerri Bisner
11/2/2025	Kyle Wade
11/2/2025	Lillian Popham
11/2/2025	Lily Coughlin
11/2/2025	Martha Bowen
11/2/2025	Rob Vandenabeele
11/2/2025	Robert French
11/2/2025	Ruth Lawrence
11/2/2025	Sandra Schumacher
11/3/2025	B. Jeanne Horner
11/3/2025	Brett Keating
11/3/2025	Caitlin Henault
11/3/2025	Elizabeth Szymanski
11/3/2025	Geoffrey Rich
11/3/2025	Kristin Whelton
11/3/2025	Mark Smith
11/3/2025	Miranda Chave
11/3/2025	Olivia Alejandro
11/3/2025	Pilar Keyes
11/3/2025	Vicky Sohn
11/4/2025	Brook Cordeiro
11/4/2025	David Tapscott
11/4/2025	Glenna Waterman
11/4/2025	Harry Newell
11/4/2025	Heather Conkerton
11/4/2025	Jonas Procton
11/4/2025	Jordan McCarron
11/4/2025	Lee Carson
11/4/2025	Lydia Eldridge
11/5/2025	Jacob Sagrans
11/5/2025	Julia Simonds

Date	Signatory
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11/7/2025	Amy McCoy
11/7/2025	Andi Gibson
11/7/2025	Ann Walker
11/7/2025	Donna Cohen
11/7/2025	Elizabeth Gricus
11/7/2025	Ellen Manning
11/7/2025	Heather Malakian
11/7/2025	Helen Lozoraitis
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11/7/2025	Susan Grimwood
11/7/2025	Susi Westwood
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11/8/2025	Chrisine Erb
11/8/2025	John Hayes
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11/10/2025	Mary Donnelly
11/10/2025	Sherrie Burson