

**From:** [Nanci Worthington](#)  
**To:** [MEPA-regs \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** supporting changes to MEPA Ecological Restoration requirements  
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My name is Nanci Worthington and I am a resident of New Marlborough, MA. I am writing today, both as a New Marlborough Conservation Commission member and citizen to offer comments on the proposed changes to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations.

I am writing to support the proposed changes to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations that would exempt Ecological Restoration projects from MEPA review, for projects meeting the requirements of the Wetlands Protection regulations to restore natural ecological functions and improve the environment. Simplifying a cumbersome process will be a service to applying the regulations of the WPA.

Coastal and inland wetlands provide important functions including preventing storm damage and flooding, filtering water and preventing pollution, water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. These functions are increasingly important in light of the more intense storms and more frequent droughts we are experiencing due to climate change. These wetlands are also extremely effective carbon sinks, another function that has to be considered as we try to slow the speed of temperature rise.

I strongly support the proposed changes, which would reduce the costs and time involved in restoring wetlands damaged by previous human activities and development.

Sincerely, Nanci Worthington, New Marlborough, MA

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