
Public comment for amendments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act 301 CMR 11.00

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To MEPA-regs (EEA) <MEPA-regs@mass.gov>

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Dear Secretary Tepper and Governor Healey,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) "*301 CMR 11.00 to streamline housing and ecological restoration projects*". The Commonwealth's environmental review process is a cornerstone of public protection — ensuring that major projects are carefully evaluated for their potential impacts on our air, water, land, climate, and communities. Any proposal that seeks to circumvent or "streamline" these safeguards for the benefit of development undermines the very purpose of MEPA and places both people and the environment at risk.

Environmental regulations exist for a reason: to protect public health, prevent pollution, and ensure that development proceeds responsibly and equitably. Weakening these processes in the name of efficiency may benefit private developers, but it will harm communities across Massachusetts — particularly environmental justice communities that already bear a disproportionate burden of pollution, flooding, and climate-related hazards.

By diminishing public participation and oversight, this proposal would silence the very residents most affected by development decisions. It would accelerate projects without fully understanding or mitigating their cumulative impacts — from stormwater runoff and habitat destruction to increased traffic, emissions, and heat island effects. These are not minor concerns; they are threats to the quality of life, safety, and health of all Commonwealth residents.

The problem is not the process itself — it is the persistent pressure to prioritize private development over public welfare. Streamlining environmental review is not progress; it is a step backward that risks undoing decades of work to ensure clean air, clean water, and a livable future for all.

I urge you to reject any amendments that weaken MEPA's review standards or limit public input. Instead, strengthen environmental protections, increase community engagement, and ensure that all development aligns with Massachusetts' climate goals and environmental justice commitments.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in environmental responsibility. We must continue to uphold that legacy by ensuring that our rules and regulations protect people and the planet — not the profits of developers.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to preserving the integrity of MEPA and the health of our communities.

Meghan Perry
MA EJ Community resident and voter

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