



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

June 4, 2021

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The Honorable Charles Baker, Governor
State House
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Governor Baker:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the Cape region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, is seeking your leadership in taking action to both protect the fragile environment of Cape Cod and to restore public trust in the decision-making process about allowed training activities at Joint Base Cape Cod. As you are no doubt aware, the Massachusetts National Guard has proposed the construction of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range on top of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The 2002 law that created the Water Supply Reserve stipulated that only training that is compatible with the protection of the water supply and wildlife habitat on the reserve would be allowed. The current proposal, and the underlying analysis developed by and then approved by the Guard, fails to substantiate the claim of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This project does not meet the requirements of state law and should be denied by the state's Environmental Management Commission (EMC).

At its meeting last night, the Science Advisory Commission, which makes recommendations to the EMC, unanimously agreed that the existing environmental performance standards were out of date and not suited to review a project of this nature. Added to that are overwhelming public concerns about the inadequate engagement of the public in the decision-making process. Unlike the robust public involvement that has marked the last two decades of relations between the Guard and the Cape community throughout the \$1.2 billion cleanup of this Superfund site, the Guard has not been open and transparent with the community, and when it has had to receive public comment as required by law, it has been uniformly dismissive of all public input and concerns. Recent comments by the Base Executive Director (see attached) characterized the public that took the time to comment as "naysayers, activists and anti-military groups." Is that really the appropriate sentiment of a leadership that is open to meaningful engagement with the

legitimately concerned public, which is still living with the legacy of contamination by the base of water supplies in the surrounding communities? Is that the type of leadership that we, those who live here and rely on the quality of our environment, should trust as legitimate arbiters of our future? Lastly, as Commander in Chief of the Massachusetts National Guard, is that who you want representing your administration in deciding what to do with Article 97 lands entrusted to us all?

While again, our concerns are focused on the failure of the proposal to meet the letter and intent of the law, I must also state that the comments by the Base Executive Director in the attached email threatening to punish local businesses by preventing trainees from leaving the base and therefor depriving the businesses recovering from the pandemic of their support is highly inappropriate. I must ask again how we can be expected to trust the objectivity of this person and his team to act in our region's best interests. We can't, nor should you. On behalf of those concerned with the preservation of Cape Cod, I ask that you, as your predecessor the late Governor Cellucci did in 1998 when it was first proposed, prevent this project from being constructed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of the utmost importance to your constituents who live and visit Cape Cod.

Sincerely



Andrew Gottlieb

CC: Cape State Legislative Delegation

Attachment

-----Original Message-----

From: Faux, Christopher M NFG (USA) <christopher.m.faux.nfg@mail.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 3:07 PM

To: Christopher Adams <Chris@capecodchamber.org>

Cc: Hallinan, Robert S CW5 USARMY NG MAARNG (USA) <robert.s.hallinan.mil@mail.mil>;

Porter, Matthew N COL USARMY NG MAARNG (USA) <matthew.n.porter.mil@mail.mil>

Subject: Range Issue at JBCC

Chris,

First of all thank for stepping up and becoming a member of the MCCC. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the chamber.

The main reason I am contacting you is not as the MCCC co-chair, but as a collaboration of organizations that contributes more than a billion dollars a year to the local economy. Frankly, that includes salaries and organization level spending across JBCC and not the additional millions of dollars spent by the troops training on base. We have scientifically proven without question, that our project will not only have no impact on ground water quality, but will positively impact listed species and their respective habitats...yet the only folks that speak up are naysayers, activists and anti-military groups. They are the only ones contacting the delegation and swaying opinions against our project.

With our impact on local business, it is hard to believe we have heard nothing in support. For that reason, I will be recommending a conditional confinement for the thousands of soldiers that train here each weekend over the summer to The Adjutant General. What that means is anyone training here will be directed to stay and eat on base. Additionally, I will be circulating a letter to all full time employees identifying how this lack of community support could affect their jobs/positions, which are part of the \$0.5B+ impact. The letter will also recommend to all that can, to take an extra few minutes to shop and spend money on the other side of the bridge; showing the community the direct impact of the loss of their employment.

It truly saddens me to even consider taking these steps, but I am more saddened by the lack of support from the businesses on Cape. If you have any suggestions on how we can fix this problem, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I am visiting family in Omaha from 2-9 June, but will have my cellphone and closely monitoring text messages. My final recommendations to TAG will be made upon my return.

Respectfully,
Chris

Brigadier General (ret) Christopher M.Faux

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