



Andrew Gottlieb  
Executive Director

September 29, 2023

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The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Edward Markey  
The Honorable William Keating

**RE: Supplemental Funding for Multipurpose Machine Gun Range**

Dear Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Representative Keating:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes to you as part of our ongoing concern about the Massachusetts National Guard's determination to move forward with construction bids for the multipurpose machine gun range (MPMGR) proposed on the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve at Joint Base Cape Cod. We are equally concerned about the potential for the Guard and the Department of Defense to seek supplemental funding from Congress to cover project construction costs that exceed current available funding for the project. We respectfully seek your assistance in preventing further Congressional appropriation of funds for this project.

Over the past several months, the Guard has inappropriately moved forward in aggressively seeking construction bids for the MPMGR, despite the draft finding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the project would pose significant harm to the region's sole source aquifer. Coupled with this, the state's Environmental Management Commission, which oversees activities on the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve and which must approve the MPMGR project before it can move forward, has not yet considered, let alone approved, the project.

The Guard published bid requests for the project with an original date for bidders to respond by mid-July 2023, and then either issued a second bid request or extended the original response date to August 2023. APCC has learned from a public source that the construction bids received by the Guard exceeded the appropriated funds for the project by roughly \$5 million.

Unfortunately, the Guard refuses to publicly share information about bids or

their intentions surrounding the premature pursuit of construction contractors, refuses to discuss the subject at Joint Base Cape Cod Military-Civilian Community Council meetings, will not respond to written inquiries from APCC, and recently told the Mashpee Select Board that there was nothing to report when asked if they were pursuing bids despite the two bid Requests for Proposals that were posted in the newspaper and online.

Due to the information mentioned above about a potential shortfall in currently available project funds compared to bids the Guard may have received, APCC is concerned that the Guard and the Department of Defense will attempt to include a supplemental appropriation or authorization to fund the project shortfall in one of the funding bills under current or future consideration by Congress.

APCC strongly objects to any additional federal funds being committed to this project, which is subject to the draft finding by EPA that would prohibit its construction. Given the secretive manner in which the original authorization was sought without the Massachusetts Congressional delegation's input or even without the delegation's knowledge, we respectfully request that you take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that additional federal funds for the MPMGR are not included in any bill under current or future consideration by Congress. If attempts have been made to insert such language, we ask that you make every effort to see that the language is removed.

APCC greatly appreciates your assistance in this matter and your ongoing commitment to the health and protection of Cape Cod's environment and people. I would be happy to discuss this issue further with you or your staff if you desire to do so. I can be reached at [agottlieb@apcc.org](mailto:agottlieb@apcc.org) or 617-797-3302 (cell).

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Maura Healey, Governor  
The Honorable Kim Driscoll, Lt. Governor  
Quentin Palfrey, Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure