

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

ANNIE LACOURT, CHAIR
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE-CHAIR
KEVIN F. GREELEY
JOHN W. HURD
CLARISSA ROWE



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
TELEPHONE
781-316-3020
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

June 21, 2007

Representative William N. Brownsberger
State House, Room 22
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Brownsberger:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Arlington heartily endorse House Bill 21 which proposes to appropriate funds to purchase a parcel of land called the Silver Maple Forest or the Belmont Uplands. The parcel is the natural compliment to the lands already under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) which owns a narrow strip of adjacent land surrounding Little Pond and connecting to the Alewife Reservation.

The acquisition is especially important at this time because the Silver Maple Forest is threatened with development which would not only eliminate it from the adjacent open space but threaten harm to the adjacent DCR and private properties. The area beginning at Spy Pond in Arlington and Little Pond in Belmont and extending to the Mystic River is one large interconnected water resource. Existing development has severely strained the ability of the wetland system to provide the flood mediation it has for hundreds of years.

There are other undesirable impacts that would be caused by the development of this parcel chief among them being the traffic impact in an area already under great stress and under study because of local and commuter traffic. It is clearly in the public interest to acquire and protect the Belmont Uplands and the Board of Selectmen wish to strongly encourage favorable action on this bill.

Very Truly Yours,
Board of Selectmen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie LaCourt".

Annie LaCourt
Chairman

