



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

May 19, 2010

To whom it may concern re Blanchard Road Truck Ban,

Thank you for contacting us regarding your concerns about truck traffic on Blanchard Road.

We are entirely sympathetic to your concerns for both noise and safety.

The truck ban process is a difficult one and one that must be initiated by the City of Cambridge in consultation with the Town of Belmont. If Cambridge and Belmont elect to support a truck ban on Blanchard Road, we will certainly do all that we can to advocate for it with the Department of Transportation which must approve a truck ban.

We understand that a threshold question is whether truck traffic constitutes over 5% of the traffic on Blanchard. We understand further that Cambridge is conducting the necessary traffic counts at this time and will consider options after those counts are completed. Any truck ban proposal must identify alternative routes which must be acceptable to the communities in question. Belmont, for example, would almost certainly not support a proposal which merely shifted trucks from Blanchard to Bright. Cambridge may or may not be able to identify alternative routes that seem equitable to the residents on those routes.

Accordingly, we expect that Cambridge and Belmont will continue to have difficult conversations about this issue which may or may not lead to a solution that removes trucks from Blanchard Road.

If the communities are able to identify a solution, we stand ready to support it. We are also ready to meet at any time with any group of residents who would like to discuss the problem in further depth.

Very best regards,

Handwritten signature of Steven A. Tolman in black ink.

Steven A. Tolman
STATE SENATOR

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Hecht in black ink.

Jonathan Hecht
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Handwritten signature of William N. Brownsberger in black ink.

William N. Brownsberger
STATE REPRESENTATIVE