



August 17, 2018

Her Excellency Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth
Office of the Governor
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Jay Ash
Secretary of Housing & Economic Development
1 Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

Lauren A. Liss
President & Chief Executive Officer
MassDevelopment
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Joint Base Cape Cod Wastewater Facilities & Upper Cape Towns

Dear Lt. Gov. Polito, Secretary Ash, and Ms. Liss:

On behalf of the four Upper Cape Cod towns – Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich – we are writing to respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to terminate any future consideration of MassDevelopment taking over ownership and oversight of the wastewater treatment facilities on Joint Base Cape Cod (“JBCC”). If you are willing to discuss this decision, we would also like to respectfully request a collective meeting at a time and location acceptable to you so we can explain our thoughts on this very important matter that impacts the entire Upper Cape and has spin off repercussions on all of Cape Cod where we are struggling to address our wastewater needs and requirements.

As you may know, the four Upper Cape towns have worked very diligently with JBCC officials and MassDevelopment for almost a decade to cooperatively address the wastewater needs of our communities and to determine how the JBCC infrastructure can best serve our region. These efforts, which began in earnest back in 2005 with the release of the UMass Donahue Institute Economic Impact Study of JBCC, have focused on how we could collectively work together to solve our region’s largest environmental problem, wastewater. Commensurate

with that effort is a long-standing goal of the 102nd Intelligence Wing (“102nd”) to divest themselves of ownership and operation of the wastewater infrastructure which serves all of JBCC. In addition to relieving a burden on the 102nd, it is a widely held belief that non-military ownership of the infrastructure will serve JBCC favorably the next time a Base Realignment and Closure (“BRAC”) Commission is established by the federal government.

The 2005 economic impact study was supplemented by a 2009 Economic Diversification Plan prepared for MassDevelopment by Basile Associates, Inc. This study also reviewed the enhanced use of leasing concepts for JBCC operations, with special focus addressing the wastewater treatment needs of surrounding towns through the JBCC facilities. Following this study, several years of effort progressed the concept of leasing or transferring ownership of the JBCC treatment plant and associated facilities to MassDevelopment. It is our understanding that this transfer of operational ownership was extremely close to being finalized with MassDevelopment when a decision was made to immediately stop this effort a few months ago, without a larger regional meeting to discuss this possibility nor any notification whatsoever to the involved Upper Cape municipalities.

Perhaps what is most perplexing to us about the decision to suspend MassDevelopment consideration of taking over the JBCC treatment plant, even on a short-term basis, is the fact that the four Upper Cape towns have received two of the largest State Regional Community Compact grant awards to study this very topic with JBCC and State officials. Our first regional grant for \$135,000 was received in December 2016 with a full report submitted by consultant Wright Pierce in November 2017. This effort led to a second Regional Community Compact grant being approved in January 2018 for \$140,000. Work is about to start in earnest on this second State grant.

There are many other regional efforts we could point to over the last decade that exemplify how hard we have collectively worked on this joint wastewater effort. In addition, the Upper Cape communities are a model of how to work cooperatively with military installations to solve major problems in the most efficient and economic manner. The four Upper Cape towns and JBCC officials have addressed and solved major problems over the years: dozens of seemingly insurmountable water contaminations, establishment of an Upper Cape Water Protection Collaborative to share water resources between the four towns and JBCC, and huge progress identifying how the JBCC wastewater infrastructure can uniquely serve each of the four towns’ and JBCC needs.

All of these efforts over the last 25 years have proven that JBCC is thought of and treated as the fifth Upper Cape town, not a separate, independent military installation. The Base and its personnel are our residents, neighbors, students, friends, and an integral part of our region and our economic well-being. It is clear to our communities that the 102nd Intelligence Wing needs to be relieved of the burden of owning and operating the wastewater plant. Helping the 102nd divest themselves of this responsibility can only help us in future BRAC processes and we do not want to lose JBCC as an active, joint military base on the Upper Cape. The JBCC is too valuable to all of us to lose. We believe MassDevelopment provides us with the most feasible & responsible option to take over ownership and supervision of the plant, even if only on a short to mid-term basis.

Consistent with these past efforts between the Upper Cape towns and JBCC is the recent development of the Cape Cod Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan (“208 Plan”) which was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2015. The 208 Plan recommends taking advantage of

existing wastewater treatment and disposal facilities and specifically identifies the JBCC wastewater facilities as presenting significant potential cost savings for Upper Cape towns.

One key point we would like to stress is if the State has indeed decided to stop any future consideration of MassDevelopment taking over the JBCC wastewater infrastructure that we be told this as soon as possible. We do not want to waste valuable time and State grant funding if MassDevelopment is no longer an option in the State's eyes.

Again, we would respectfully like you to reconsider your decision to withdraw consideration of MassDevelopment assuming ownership and oversight of the JBCC wastewater infrastructure. If you are willing to reconsider this decision, we would like to meet with you as a group to discuss this long-term, critically important effort. We are more than willing to come to Boston for a meeting if that would be more convenient for all of you.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We greatly appreciate all the State has done to support Cape Cod's efforts to restore water quality and address wastewater needs for our entire region, and especially the Upper Cape and JBCC.

Respectfully yours,

Peter J. Meier
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Bourne

Thomas M. Guerino
Town Administrator
Town of Bourne

Susan L. Moran
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Falmouth

Julian M. Suso
Town Manager
Town of Falmouth

Carol A. Sherman
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Mashpee

Rodney C. Collins
Town Manager
Town of Mashpee

David Sampson
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Sandwich

George H. Dunham
Town Manager
Town of Sandwich

cc: Upper Cape Cod State Legislative Delegation
Joint Base Cape Cod Commanders
The Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard
Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission