



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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Department of Public Utilities Siting Division  
1 South Station, 5th floor  
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July 22, 2022, via email

**Regarding EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-21**

To the Department of Public Utilities Siting Board,

I am writing to reiterate and add to my remarks at the June 28 public hearing pertaining to the Greater Cambridge Energy Project. The vast majority of this project is within the boundaries of the 26th Middlesex district and will impact a number of low to moderate income communities and communities which have unduly shouldered regional infrastructure burdens.

I appreciate efforts by Eversource, the Siting Board, City officials, and resident advocates to ensure the original proposal for the Fulkerson Street substation has been scrapped in favor of a new location in Kendall Square that will be away from the school and the densely populated East Cambridge neighborhood.

The S1A study area abutters on Broadway, Hampshire Street, and Columbia Street deserve serious consideration of the Grand Junction Corridor (S11C) as an alternative route, and I think this alternative route makes sense. The land on the alternative route is not as continuously active nor situated on top of a densely populated residential neighborhood. Furthermore, the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood has been subject to decades of infrastructure burdens and there are equity concerns as this is a more moderate income neighborhood. Please focus due attention on the alternative proposal so we can achieve the fairest outcome for our constituents.

With regards to the Allston-Brighton connection, I encourage Eversource to continue to work closely and in partnership with Magazine Beach Partners. We need to be sensitive about the needs of the Charles River parklands and wetlands and the best way to ensure that sensitivity is continued dialogue with the lands' stewards.

With regards to the Union Square substation connections, I would suggest to this Board that there should not even exist an above ground substation directly across from the new Green Line station at Union Square. As part of this project or as some future iteration of this work, this substation ought to be relocated or placed underground so the City of Somerville, which has for

decades paid the price for everyone else's infrastructure, can unlock this desirable parcel and put it to better use. Additionally, any future work on that substation must not encroach on any future right-of-way for Green Line connectivity with Porter Square. I would ask this Board to consider conditions on both of these points relating to Union Square.

In closing this project continues to demonstrate the need for comprehensive planning. Having attended many development and planning meetings over the past decade, very rarely do we ever hear about future electricity needs as we contemplate new developments. We need to ensure infrastructure needs are being proactively addressed so that we don't have to play catch up each time our infrastructure becomes unduly burdened by a lack of planning. In addition, I want to ensure that as this work unfolds it is being coordinated with other infrastructure projects to minimize residential impacts. Lastly, I want to commend Eversource for ruling out gas generation as an emergency power option. As a matter of policy we must shift away from the combustion of fossil fuels. Thank you for considering these comments, I look forward to continued engagement with this agency, Eversource, and all the stakeholders.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Connolly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Connollye