

June 24, 2010

Commissioner Laurie Burt
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA

Re: Hearing, SRF Green Reserve, June 25, 2010

Dear Commissioner Burt:

We believe that the state should do more to encourage innovative wastewater technologies than is currently the practice. Last year (and as currently proposed in this year's draft evaluation form) almost all of the SRF Green Reserve money went to make existing conventional sewer systems more energy efficient. That's not a bad thing but it is not entirely true to Congress' intent to examine the potential for innovative alternative wastewater treatment. Furthermore, these alternatives are generally vastly more energy efficient over their lifetimes than are large pipe systems.

You and Secretary Bowles have previously met and talked to Representative Patrick about some promising technologies that are much more energy efficient while remaining very effective for removing nitrogen and phosphorus. Permeable reactive barriers needs no energy to operate and comparatively little energy to install, yet it would not qualify for extra credit through your draft system of project evaluation for the SRF Green Reserve. In addition, there are urine diverting and composting toilets that need a full scientific and sociological study before they can be certified for use in the field to meet TMDL requirements.

If the majority of the SRF Green Reserve money is used to make existing wastewater systems more energy efficient, it will underfund promising technologies that could make sewerage much more affordable and, therefore, feasible for municipalities to implement on Cape Cod and other coastal communities.

We urge you to redesign the proposal evaluation form to encourage the testing of real innovative and alternative wastewater systems.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Patrick,
Representative, 3rd Barnstable District

Cleon H. Turner,
First Barnstable District

Robert A. O'Leary,
Senator, Cape and Islands District
Nantucket

Timothy R. Madden
Barnstable, Dukes and

Demetrius J. Atsalis,
Representative, 2nd. Barnstable District

Sarah K. Peake,
4th. Barnstable District

John F. Quinn,
9th. Bristol District

Cc: Governor Deval Patrick;
Secretary Ian Bowles;
Congressman William Delahunt