



## Town of Brewster

2198 Main Street  
Brewster, MA 02631-1898  
Phone: (508) 896-3701  
Fax: (508) 896-8089

Office of:  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator

March 20, 2017

Michael McClean  
Director of Rights of Way Program  
Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources  
Mass. State Pesticide Bureau  
251 Causeway St, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114-2151

RE: Comments on Eversource's 2017 YOP for Vegetative Maintenance within Rights of Way.

Dear Mr. McClean:

On Monday March 13, 2017, the Board of Selectmen discussed our concerns, along with those of our constituents, regarding Eversource's 2017 YOP and the spraying of chemicals within the electric transmission line rights-of-way and authorized me to send this correspondence. Our very real concerns relate to the potential environmental and health impacts this spraying will have on the environment, wildlife and drinking water supplies of our community and the Cape as a whole.

Brewster has expressed its concern over the years every time spraying is proposed. We still consider this an issue of legitimate public concern to all and we once again urge you to reconsider the spraying of any chemicals for the management of vegetation. Vegetation management has been and can continue to be effectively controlled by mechanical means.

Our contention is that the cumulative impact of chemical exposure on the environment and on human health has not been thoroughly explored and that our citizens have a right to choose not to be exposed to these chemicals. Public utilities may have "rights of way", we do not believe those rights extend to imposing risks to the habitat, health or environment of others, below the surface to water resources or laterally to adjacent lands and air. While the quantifiable loss could be calculated as the lost value of damaged landscaping, crops, grazing resources, loss of areas available for outdoor living space and the keeping of domestic plants and animals, there are less tangible losses resulting from the qualitative loss of habitats and native species, loss of vegetative buffers, increased potential risks to water quality, as well as, potential long-term risks to human, animal and plant health.

This letter serves as joint **written notice from public bodies representing multiple aggrieved persons objecting to the use of chemical herbicides within our jurisdictional boundaries, pending the outcome of an Adjudicatory Hearing.** An extended “spray moratorium” is neither a burden or onerous and is in the best interest of the residents of Brewster and Cape Cod.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Embury  
Town Administrator

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
Board of Health  
Conservation Commission

Sent Certified and cc'd:

Gregory Watson, Commissioner  
Department of Food & Agriculture  
251 Causeway St., Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114

William Hayes, Senior Transmission Arborist  
Eversource Corporation Planning, Scheduling and Contract  
Services Dept.  
One NSTAR Way, SE-370  
Westwood, MA 02090

Dennis Galvam, Manager, Community Relations  
Northeast Utilities  
NSTAR Electric & Gas  
One NSTAR Way  
Westwood, MA 02090

Paul Neidsweiki, Executive Director  
Cape Cod Commission  
3225 Main St.  
P.O. Box 226  
Barnstable, MA 02630-0226

Rep. Tim Whalen's  
First Barnstable District  
House of Representatives  
State House, Room 39  
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Sarah Peake  
Fourth Barnstable District  
House of Representatives  
State House, Room 163  
Boston, MA 02133

Sen. Julian Cyr  
Cape & Islands District  
State Senate, Room 405  
Boston, MA 02133

Congressman William Keating  
Ninth District  
315 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Elizabeth Warren  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Edward Markey  
225 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510