

PETITION May 2009

We, the undersigned, are requesting that a question be placed on a town ballot as soon as possible relative to the use of the commercial property on Mashapaug Road in Holland, MA., that is currently being considered for a truck stop, specifically a Flying J Truck Stop and Travel Center.

There are many quality of life issues at stake for the Town of Holland if this becomes a reality.

Specifically:

- Drainage and run off from the extensive hard top finding its way into Hamilton Reservoir which is the heart of the town's existence.
- Increased traffic into the town that would bring with it an increase in crime, drugs and prostitution
- Effects on the rural aesthetics of the town caused by lights, noise and glare from the truck stop.
- Impact on air quality, water quality and the quiet we currently enjoy in town.
- Increased traffic on town roads adding to the need for additional road maintenance and police presence as well as concern for the causeway between the two basins that is not designed for truck traffic.
- Concern for the town water supply. The land is on a large aquifer. Tapping it for truck stop use may seriously affect the amount and pressure of water in wells throughout town as well as the lake which is spring fed.
- There are no sewers in town; the waste water from toilets, showers and truck washing will drain somewhere and most likely affect the surrounding areas and lake.
- Sturbridge recently voted down a change to commercial zoning of the abutting property. With only one entrance to the property onto a very small town road and off of an insufficiently sized highway exit, we residents find themselves driving significantly more miles to exit 1 off Rt. 84 in Massachusetts to get into and out of town. Any truck accident between the exit and the entrance to the truck stop will not only affect traffic but pollution risks will increase and go directly into the lake from that location.

We feel that it is imperative that the residents and voters of the Town of Holland have a voice in this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

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