

To: Senator Jamie Eldridge

From: Nigel Godley

October 13, 2016.

Dear Jamie,

Thank you for your email.

First, I want to thank you for your ongoing involvement and concern over Nagog Pond - I was unaware of your activities in this regard, and am especially pleased that you have both visited the site and worked at the state and local levels to address key issues.

Second, as you know, this is not just an Acton neighborhood issue. We are not abutters as we live in central Acton but I and others throughout Acton are concerned about the future availability of water for our town. As I am sure you are already aware, there is grave concern that our wells are already in jeopardy of contamination from a hazardous waste plume emanating from Concord. Many of us are also concerned about the potential impact on the aquifer (s) from which Acton water is drawn, of increased use by Concord of Nagog Pond's water.

Thirdly, it seems to me that the use of Nagog Pond water is a regional issue impacting Acton, Littleton and Concord. Although I am not familiar with the history, it seems only reasonable that both Acton and Littleton, whose land actually abuts the Pond (whereas Concord's does not) should be able to access this resource on at least an equitable basis with Concord. As this year's drought conditions again demonstrate, we must now all acknowledge that water is a limited and precious regional (not local) resource.

Fourthly, I therefore recommend that before a permit decision is made on the proposed expansion of the Concord water plant, that a comprehensive regional analysis should be made of the water needs and resources available to all 3 towns. It further seems to me to be only reasonable that the Acton Selectmen can only act upon Concord's permit application once such a survey has been completed.

Fifthly, I believe there are legislative precedents for such regional solutions - for example the Acton Boxborough Regional High School. Would it be possible for the legislature to establish a legislative framework for a regional solution for water availability and usage? Why is each town left to its own devices to secure its water resources and determine how its water resources are to be used? As I am sure you are aware, Acton has put in severe water use restrictions for the last several years, and this year's were in place some considerable time before Concord saw fit to promulgate similar restrictions.

Finally, another (but to my mind, much less satisfactory possibility) would be for the legislature to limit Concord's ability to withdraw water from Nagog Pond when certain conditions exist, such as the current drought. Precedent for such legislative action, was, I believe, established in the early 1900's when Concord's ability to withdraw water from Sandy Pond in Lincoln was legislatively limited.

To conclude, I feel that any efforts you can make to ensure that the long-term water needs of all 3 communities are analyzed before permitting the increased use of Nagog Pond water by Concord is essential. I further believe that a regional solution is needed to ensure that available water resources are equitably shared between the impacted communities, and that this is an appropriate role for the legislature to play in this process.

Jamie, I want to again thank you for your efforts on behalf of your constituency - I understand how difficult a role you have to play, balancing competing interests and the needs of the various communities you represent.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Godley.

(cc : Acton Board of Selectmen)