



Planning Board

TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9636
Fax (978) 264-9630
pb@acton-ma.gov
www.acton-ma.gov

April 20, 2005

Senator
Pamela P. Resor
State House, Room 410
Boston, MA 02133

Representative
Cory Atkins
State House, Room 163
Boston, MA 02133

Representative
James B. Eldridge
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Sale of Surplus State Property

Dear Senator Resor, Dear Representatives Atkins and Eldridge:

The Acton Planning Board has reviewed the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC) recent report "Positive Disposition" with its policy recommendations for the sale of surplus State land. The report recommends that recent legislative changes should be reversed or at least amended to reinstate important opportunities for public policy debate and local needs assessments before State lands are sold, and to provide more of a local say in the final decision - among them:

- Notification of stake holders such as the Town, rather than relying on the newspaper notice.
- Right of first refusal by municipality.
- Assignability of right of first refusal.

We wholeheartedly agree with MAPC's recommendations and urge you to support and vote in favor of needed changes in the law on the sale of surplus State lands. The changes should empower communities rather than alienate them, and the final outcome of a State land sale should serve a clear public purpose beyond simply raising revenues.

Sincerely,

Gregory E. Niemyski
Chairman
Acton Planning Board

Cc: Acton Board of Selectmen

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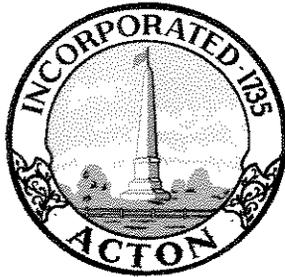
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