



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1020

REPRESENTATIVE ALICE K. WOLF
Representing the People of Cambridge

Chair, Committee on Elder Affairs

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September 19, 2011

Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation,
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Boston HAZMAT Route

Dear Mr. Broderick,

I am writing with regards to MassDOT's evaluation of the transportation of Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials (NRHM) in the City of Boston. I know that trucks carrying hazardous material through densely populated areas is a long-term issue; it has been an issue in Cambridge, which I represent, for a long time. I am very concerned that the solution proposed by the City of Boston could have unintended consequences to neighboring communities, specifically Cambridge.

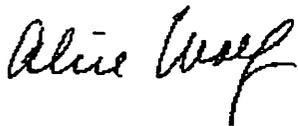
There needs to be a regional solution to this problem. My understanding is that the proposal prohibits the use of City streets in the Boston downtown area for the "through" transportation of NRHM where there is neither a point of origin nor destination within the City of Boston. It also recommends an alternative route outside of downtown Boston, namely Route 128. However, this alternative route is not mandated. So, in all likelihood, trucks unable to go through downtown Boston will simply cut through other communities. As the report highlights, Cambridge is a densely populated city, and I can attest that the City already suffers from trucks using our streets as shortcuts to and from communities north of the City. I accept that there is a problem with the transportation of NRHM, but banning trucks from one community is not the solution.

In addition, I am aware that my colleagues in the Legislature who represent communities along Route 128 have raised their concerns with MassDOT about the proposed alternative route. No community in the Commonwealth will want increased transportation of NRHM "in their backyard". Many residents bear witness to trucks travelling at high-speed or undertaking risky maneuvers, and we are all aware of how hazardous our streets can be in the depths of winter during rush hour.

If there were to be added transportation of NRHM on any highways, regulations for truck travel along the route should be further regulated. Restrictions could include a lower maximum speed limit for such vehicles, limiting the lanes they are permitted to travel in, and controlling the times of day they may use the route, to avoid the busiest and therefore most risky times of day.

I ask that you consider regional solutions and appropriate regulations for transportation of hazardous material. This is an important public safety issue. MassDOT needs to ensure the best solutions for all the communities in the region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alice Wolf
State Representative

CC: City Manager Robert W. Healy
CC: Cambridge City Council
CC: Representative William N. Brownsberger
CC: Representative Jonathan Hecht
CC: Representative Byron Rushing
CC: Representative Timothy J. Toomey, Jr
CC: Representative Marty M. Walz
CC: Senator Sal N. DiDomenico
CC: Senator Anthony Petruccelli
CC: Senator Steven A. Tolman
CC: Congressman Michael E. Capuano