The Honorable Governor Maura Healey
Office of Constituent Services
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

October 20, 2023

RE: Proposed North Airfield Expansion at Hanscom Airport and Contradiction to Commonwealth's Climate Goals

Dear Governor Healey,

We, the undersigned Select Boards of Bedford, Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln, extend our appreciation for the bold and ambitious Climate Goals you have set forth for our Commonwealth. We write to bring your attention to a pressing environmental concern regarding the proposed North Airfield Expansion at Hanscom Airport and its potential contradiction to the state's climate objectives.

At the forefront, we must address the critical issue of greenhouse gas emissions. While this expansion project may be in our backyards, we recognize that carbon emissions impact the atmosphere regardless of their origin. We respectfully request your support in opposing any private jet hangar expansion at Hanscom or elsewhere, emphasizing the urgent need for all sectors, in all locations, to work collaboratively towards reducing CO2 emissions.

Our towns have been diligently working hand-in-hand with the State government to achieve our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by 2030, and we have made significant progress. However, the proposed North Airfield expansion would undermine these efforts, exacerbating greenhouse gas emissions and directly contradicting the climate goals pursued by our towns, the Commonwealth, and the nation. Furthermore, this expansion stands in stark contrast to Massport's own Master Plan of 1978 and the MAPC MetroCommon 2050 plan. It undermines Massport's goal of zero greenhouse gas impacts by 2031, a commitment acknowledged in the project's ENF. Although Massport doesn't regulate individual airplanes, excluding reduced carbon emissions goals from the airplanes using its facilities seems inconsistent with setting these goals.

In light of the above, we humbly appeal to your leadership and authority to limit the expansion of private jet capacity at Hanscom Airport or any other airport in the state. Taking such a stand would send a resolute message to Massport and other airport owners that these expansions are incongruent with the drastic and unprecedented steps we must take to reduce CO2 emissions.

To address this matter effectively, we respectfully request your attention to the following actions over the coming months:
• Ensure a comprehensive and accurate Environmental Impact Review (EIR) takes place, with a specific focus on climate change and the carbon footprint. The EIR should incorporate a comprehensive public cost/benefit analysis, addressing noise levels, air quality, vehicle traffic, impacts on rare species, and effects on the local economy.

• Give serious consideration to the environmental justice implications of this project and, based on such considerations, exercise the full extent of your powers to halt Massport’s expansion plans for private jet capacity at Hanscom Field.

We, the undersigned Select Boards, stand ready to join forces with you in this crucial endeavor to combat climate change. Please inform us of specific actions we can collectively undertake to support this cause.

Sincerely yours,

Bedford Select Board
Bopha Malone
Bopha Malone (Oct 13, 2023 11:41 EDT)
BOPHA MALONE, CHAIR

Shawn Hanegan (Oct 13, 2023 11:48 EDT)
SHAWN HANEKAN

Margaret Fischer
MARGOT FISCHER

Paul Mortenson
Paul Mortenson (Oct 12, 2023 11:54 EDT)
PAUL MORTENSON

Concord Select Board
Henry J. Dane
Henry J. Dane (Sep 21, 2023 12:59 EDT)
HENRY DANNE, CHAIR

Mary Hartman (Sep 21, 2023 13:18 EDT)
MARY HARTMAN

Terri Ackerman (Sep 21, 2023 14:41 PDT)
TERRI ACKERMAN

LINDA FLOOD

Lexington Select Board
Joseph N. Pato
Joseph N. Pato (Oct 13, 2023 11:32 EDT)
JOSEPH N. PATO, CHAIR

Suzanne E. Barry
Suzanne E. Barry (Oct 13, 2023 11:34 EDT)

Douglas M. Lucente
DOUGLAS M. LUCENTE

Lincoln Select Board
James Hutchinson, Chair
JAMES HUTCHINSON, CHAIR

Jennifer Glass
JENNIFER GLASS

Kimberly Bodnar
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CC:
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Lisa S. Wieland, CEO, Massport
Patricia Jacobs, Chair, Massport Board of Directors
Melissa Hoffer, Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Senator Ed Markey
Congresswoman Katherine M. Clark
Congresswoman Lori Trahan
Congressman Seth Moulton
Sen. Cindy F. Friedman
Sen. Michael J. Barrett
Rep. Michelle L. Ciccolo
Rep. Simon Cataldo
Rep. Carmine Gentile
Rep. Tom Stanley
Town of Lexington, Town Meeting Members