

Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods

P.O. Box 19, Cambridge, MA 02238
354-5670

1989 NOV 15 PM 2:04

CAMBRIDGE MA.

13 Nov 1989

Editor
Boston Globe
135 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Mass. 02107-2378

Steering Committee
Pro Tem:

Jennie Bush
Phillip Dowds
Bob Edbrooke
Dan Geer
Walter Grant
Peter Kinder
Jay Marrs
Debra McManus
Priscilla McMillan
Gaylen Morgan
Hugo Salemme
Henry Shawah
Anne Toop
Susan Yanow

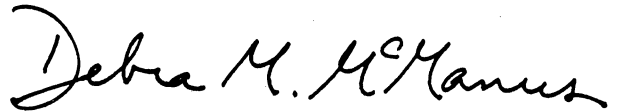
Dear Sir,

As described by Eugene L. Roberts, Jr., in his article on SLAP ("strategic litigation against plaintiffs") suits, it is precisely the chilling of free speech that makes them popular with the already powerful. However, one need not look to California, Michigan or Pennsylvania for examples, one need only look to Cambridge. There, citizens attempting to ensure regulatory enforcement of the Clean Air Act have been hit with a countersuit of this type. In that countersuit, citizen plaintiffs have been "SLAP'd" for having "Addressed letters to municipal, state and federal officials", "Addressed...allegations in letters to...the Attorney General of Massachusetts...alleging various violations of law", "Addressed letters to municipal officials", "...contacted the Massachusetts Department of Environmental [Protection] and the EPA seeking their involvement", "Contacted numerous members of the news media" and "Demanded and received a hearing before the City Council".

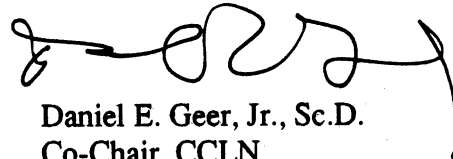
Luckily for free speech in Massachusetts, this particular group of citizens is not deterred by this SLAP counterclaim. Others, including us all by extension, may not be so lucky. We encourage the Globe to put a

serious investigative effort into discovering the extent of this problem in the Commonwealth. With that information, legislative remedies may suggest themselves, and you and we alike will be better able to engage in constructive acts of public citizenship.

Very truly yours,



Debra M. McManus
Co-Chair, CCLN



Daniel E. Geer, Jr., Sc.D.
Co-Chair, CCLN

cc: Cambridge City Council
Cambridge TAB
Cambridge Chronicle

S-180