

July 23, 1998

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

To the Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am writing this letter to ask you for your support for the eminent domain taking of the Comm/Energy Site for the purposes of open space and other public uses. The City of Cambridge has not seen a development of this magnitude in any one project. The impact of this monstrous project will devastate East Cambridge and undoubtedly will have negative impacts on other surrounding neighborhoods

I only ask that as elected officials you please consider this massive development in your neighborhood. There are massive environmental concerns, traffic, parking, density, and heights of buildings up to 230 feet. The most devastating impact is that this project will generate **9,000 vehicle trips per day.** I feel comfortable with stating that a development of this size would never be a thought in any other part of the City. The residents of eastern Cambridge have carried the burden of the negative impacts of development through increased traffic, parking problems, commercial encroachment on the residential neighborhood and the loss of housing.

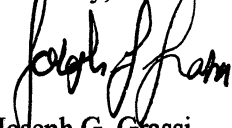
Eastern Cambridge is in desperate need of open space. Much of the space that has been created over the past 15 years has been passive open space that has only served the needs of developers. Some examples these publicly-financed parks are Front Park, Centanni Way, Charles Park and Lechmere Canal. All of these passive open public spaces have been created to encourage and to complement development. The needs of the neighborhood and the needs of the children who need parks have not been met. A preliminary study of participation in high school athletics concludes that students who reside in eastern Cambridge are not participating as often as students in other parts of Cambridge. The fact of the matter that most of the active open space is located in North and West Cambridge sections of the City. The impact is evident by the levels of participation.

I ask that the City Council to seriously consider taking the Comm/Energy Site by eminent domain to protect a neighborhood from over-development and to create active open space to be enjoyed by all the residents of the City. I know first-hand about eminent domain and I also know it has happened in Cambridge in recent history. My father's business of an auto repair shop was taken along with other properties by eminent domain in the name of progress and economic development 15 years ago. The Monitor Office Building is presently being constructed on the site where my father's gas station once stood and that building will generate additional tax revenue to the City of Cambridge.

Land takings are not an easy choice and are usually expensive. Protecting the quality of life in eastern Cambridge and at the same time creating open space for the residents of lower-income families is the right choice.

Thank you for your time.

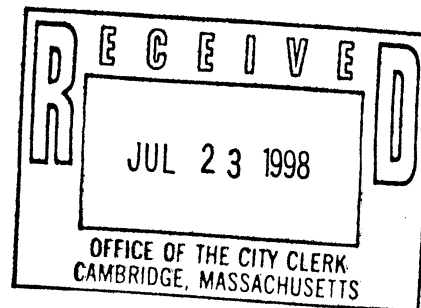
Sincerely,



Joseph G. Grassi

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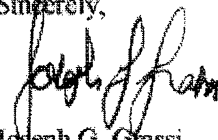
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Joseph G. Grassi

Consent Communicaiton #55

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A communication was received from Joseph G. Grassi, requesting the City Council's support for the eminent domain taking of the Comma/ Energy Site for the purpose of open space and other public use.

In City Conncil July 27, 1998

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