

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES  
In the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Two  
Resolution 22-03**

Opposition to Eversource Energy's Proposed Herbicide Use in Barnstable County

**Be it Hereby Resolved by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:**

**Whereas**, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has proposed to approve a 2023-2027 Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Cape Cod that would permit Eversource Energy to use chemical herbicides to kill vegetation along their rights-of-way in Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth; and

**Whereas**, Barnstable County has a fragile ecosystem and a sole-source aquifer servicing the Cape's municipal public water supplies; and

**Whereas**, the VMP does not identify the chemicals to be used by Eversource to kill vegetation, Eversource's past treatment plans included glyphosate, a chemical linked to cancer by the World Health Organization.

**Whereas**, the VMP fails to define a clear chain of responsibility for identification and mapping of sensitive areas. When these areas are not sufficiently documented, Eversource cannot prevent harmful impacts due to herbicide spraying on public health, agricultural interests, and the environment which is their duty under Massachusetts law. Eversource chemical spraying poses a serious threat to adjacent private drinking water wells since Eversource has admitted, "We do not track private wells on our maps."

**Whereas**, the VMP fails to offer Barnstable County towns an "opt out" mechanism; and

**Whereas**, the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates consists of elected delegates representing each of Barnstable County's fifteen towns in the County's legislative body; and MDAR has invited public comment on the proposed herbicide spraying plan until November 7, 2022;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates finds the Eversource Five Year Vegetation Management Plan to be fundamentally flawed and vigorously opposes the granting of pesticide spray authority by MDAR to Eversource Energy. The Assembly urges the identification and use of vegetation management strategies that are not a threat to Cape Cod's fragile ecological balance.

**The Assembly of Delegates adopted the foregoing Resolution 22-03 at its regular meeting on November 2, 2022 by a roll call vote with delegates representing 95.39% of the population of Barnstable County voting in the affirmative, and delegates representing 6.41% of the population absent.**

Attested by:



Owen Fletcher, Clerk  
Assembly of Delegates