

MASSACHUSETTS USED TO BE A LEADER IN WETLANDS PROTECTION...  
**NOW IT PLANS TO WEAKEN PROTECTION  
BY ELIMINATING CITIZEN APPEALS**

*Tell the Governor, Secretary of Executive Office of  
Environmental Affairs,  
and DEP Commissioner **you oppose this!***

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing to eliminate the long-standing right of 10 townspeople to appeal a decision by DEP in a wetlands case for an administrative hearing.



*The regulatory changes will:*

- **Drastically reduce local residents' ability to challenge bad wetland decisions by DEP**
- Let DEP review its own decisions by removing wetland appeals from the independent Division of Administrative Law Appeals (DALA)
- Weaken procedural protections in wetland appeals
- Limit administrative hearings to one day
- Make it harder for environmental groups to protect wetlands

*Citizen appeals:*

- Are not responsible for the current delays in wetland appeals—in 2006 there were only four appeals by resident groups. The answer lies in funding DALA rather than cutting out citizens
- Result in better permits and ensure strong environmental protection
- Promote civic engagement and discourse

Governor Patrick promised *to increase citizen involvement* in state government and now his administration is opening the door to *reducing public participation in environmental decisions*. Let him know how you feel by contacting him by mail at Office of the Governor, Room 360, Boston, MA 02133, or by phone at 617-725-4005.

Also, you can attend one of the **public hearings** on either **July 11** and **August 8, 2007** and/or submit your comments **by August 13, 2007** electronically via e-mail to: [MacDara.Fallon@state.ma.us](mailto:MacDara.Fallon@state.ma.us) or by mail to: MacDara Fallon, DEP, Office of General Counsel, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108. *Be sure to send a copy to the Governor (address above) and to EOEEA Secretary Ian Bowles, 100 Cambridge Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02114.*

To view the proposed changes and the public hearing notice go to DEP's website:  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/hearings/310cmr1.htm>



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