



April 18, 2019

Dear Planning Board Members:

We are responding to your request for comments from the Fire District #2 Water Commissioners about the proposed housing development in the Dry Brook Hill area. As you well know, Dry Brook Hill is part of a water supply protection district. As such, any activities there must comply with the Commonwealth's wellhead protection regulations [MGL 310 CMR 22.21(2)], as well as any Town bylaws that relate to this matter.

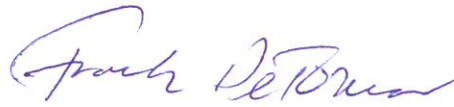
On Sunday, April 7th, we attended the first annual South Hadley Conservancy Conference. We were pleased that some members of the Planning Board were in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr. Steven Garabedian, a co-author of the USGS delineation study of the Dry Brook well area. Dr. Garabedian and the two panelists emphasized the uniqueness of the Dry Brook well area, for both the quality and the quantity of the water it provides to residents of the district.

The Commissioners and many of our water consumers are concerned about the relaxed attitude that has characterized the past commercial activity at Dry Brook Hill. The contractor did not demonstrate a concern for the protection of the quality of the nearby wells. The mining operation was not periodically inspected. The continuing lack of an inspection of the site is dismaying. We need to be assured that there are no materials at the site that can affect water quality.

The Commissioners note from an examination of the plans for the proposed project that homes will be built over the area that has been mined. Will material be brought in to fill in that area? We must be assured that any fill brought to the site meets the appropriate standards, and that any fill operations be monitored. It may be that the contractor intends to fill in the pit area by pushing material off the top of Dry Brook Hill into the pit. If so, again we need to be assured that any such operation will not affect the quality or quantity of our water supply.

The Commissioners and the public need to be assured that the water quality and the productivity of the two wells will be preserved both during and after any development of the area. We ask that a careful study of the impact of

the proposed development, done by a third party, be made available to the Planning board and to the public before the Board decides on this matter.



Francis DeToma, Chair

Fire District #2 Water Commission