



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

July 13, 2006

Middlesex School Board of Trustees  
Middlesex School  
P.O. Box 9122  
1400 Lowell Road  
Concord, MA 01742


Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:


We write in support of the preservation of Estabrook Woods. We believe that development in the Estabrook Woods will trade an irreplaceable resource for an unnecessary luxury.

We believe that there is educational and ecological value in Estabrook Woods, and we believe that value outweighs the benefits of new athletic facilities. The woods are part of the environmental and historical legacy that is of great significance to the Concord community and our state heritage. For years, students, scientists, and naturalists have used the woods for the exploration of a biologically diverse area. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs designated Estabrook Woods as both a Forest Legacy Area and a Core Habitat, deemed necessary for the protection of endangered and rare species. Entering the Estabrook Woods gives us a glimpse of what Emerson, Thoreau, and all the writers of old experienced when they lived in the region. Few schools have a resource like Estabrook Woods in their backyards. An understandable desire to create playing fields does not warrant eliminating this resource.

A coalition of Middlesex students, alumni, faculty, friends, and family, as well as history and nature lovers have done all they can within the legal system to halt development. Now we who oppose Estabrook development must simply ask: please do not raze more of the Estabrook Woods.

Sincerely,

  
CORY ATKINS  
State Representative  
14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

  
PAMELA RESOR  
State Senator  
Middlesex and Worcester

  
SUSAN C. FARGO  
State Senator  
Third Middlesex