TOWN OF LEE
32 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238
www.lee.ma.us

Office of the
Town Administrator

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

[VIA EMAIL and USPS]

Dear Senator Warren:

As I am sure you are aware, on February 24, 2023 New England Public Media published an article by Adam Frenier titled "Once supportive of EPA's Housatonic cleanup plan, Sen. Warren now calls key part of it 'an insult'". The article stated that "a spokesperson wrote" that "The Senator continues to work with local state and federal partners to achieve the environmental justice our communities deserve." Town of Lee officials were pleased to hear that you oppose the toxic landfill in Lee but also concerned that your spokesperson said that you were "working with local officials", since neither you nor your staff has ever spoken to members of the Lee Select Board or Town Administrator. In fact, we have experienced quite the opposite situation.

Beginning on March 6, 2023, a week after the article was published, the Board (through its Town Administrator) reached out to your Regional Director, Chris Gongora, who set up a meeting for March 20, 2023. The morning of March 20th, Mr. Gongora asked to "postpone" the meeting. Since that day (March 20, 2023) we have received no correspondence with your office despite several attempts to reschedule, including multiple emails, phone calls and a submission through the form on your website. As of the date of this letter, the Town has still not received a reply to set a new meeting date.

The lack of a response is concerning on many levels. While you continue to offer promises to your constituents of environmental justice, it is difficult to understand why you would ignore this meeting request; particularly since it relates to a PCB landfill to be placed in a town with an environmental justice population. It is even more concerning to ponder why, as an elected representative of the people of Massachusetts, local officials cannot at least have the opportunity to meet with a member of your staff on a serious environmental issue. The Town of Lee Select Board, again, requests a meeting with you or key members of your staff. Please respond to this letter no later than April 28, 2023.

Sincerely,

R. Christopher Brittain, Town Administrator

CC: Berkshire Eagle, Berkshire Edge, NEPM, Fox, CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Springfield Republican.