



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

Virginia Crocker Timmins, Chair Select Board
Chelmsford Town Hall
50 Billerica Road
Chelmsford MA 01824

March 22, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Select Board,

I write regarding the opportunity to discuss with the Select Board potential legislative options pertaining to commercial vehicle/ truck traffic on Ledge Road, Swain Road, Main Street, and other roads affected by hundreds of trucks entering and exiting the gravel pit on Ledge Road.

I recognize Town officials has been working diligently for several years to address increased truck traffic that has escalated in this section of North Chelmsford. I understand the Town engaged the services of the North Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) to assess the impact, gather data, and report on alternative routes to mitigate the impact on residents. I was present at the Select Board meeting in January of this year to educate myself on their findings, none of which seem feasible at this juncture.

As the newly elected member of the Massachusetts House of Representative for the 16th Middlesex District, which includes North Chelmsford, I have met with the area residents on this issue. I have witnessed the traffic and experienced firsthand: the impact the gravel operations and vehicle traffic have on their health, safety, and wellbeing.

We have a common goal, to develop a permanent remedy for the neighborhood and the Town. In a genuine desire to help solve the problem, I have met with Counsel for the House of Representatives pertaining to the filing of legislation.

They have suggested two options: the first option would be to draft language specifically establishing a vehicle weight limits on Ledge Road. Considering Ledge Road is owned by the Town, a Home Rule petition from the town would be required. As you know, the Home Rule Amendment prohibits the Legislature from acting in relation to only one city or town, unless the affected municipality requests the Legislature to do so, by means of a petition approved either by a voter-approved ballot initiative or town meeting.

The second option is to file legislation amending the General Laws to allow all municipalities to regulate the weight limits of roads abutting quarries. I have indeed filed legislation for this

Session, in the event the Town would prefer this option. The bill number is HD 3154, "An Act to Relative to Commercial Traffic on a Certain Street in Chelmsford".

It is my desire to work collaboratively with the Board of Selectmen and Town Officials on this very important issue for our constituents. I look forward to am formally requesting the opportunity discuss this legislation with members of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Officials at the Select Board Meeting on March 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Regards



Rodney Elliott
State Representative
16 Middlesex District