



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY

January 9, 2019

Billerica Conservation Commission
Town of Billerica
365 Boston Road
Billerica, MA 01821

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of my constituents in the Fourth Middlesex district, I am writing in strong support of the Middlesex Canal Association's (MCA) request for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to be used for renovation and repurposing efforts at the former Talbot Mill warehouse located at 2 Old Elm Street in North Billerica. The building is in need of repair, and once finished would be a tremendous addition to our community.

After much hard work and dedication from community advocates, the MCA has secured local approval for the building restoration process. The MCA acquired the former Talbot Mill property in 2012, but given the building's location in an active flood plain, its structural integrity has been degraded. The new renovations would replace the existing roof and install water-tight bricks to prevent further deterioration. Local masons would be employed to perform these necessary renovations.

For nearly two decades, the MCA museum has been located in Billerica, serving not only Billerica residents but also individuals from six other neighboring communities who are part of the MCA. The museum is open to the community every weekend, and hosts historical lectures and nature walks, among other community-enriching programming. Since 1983, the Talbot Mills Warehouse has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was significant to the development of the 75-acre Billerica Mills Historic District. Securing funds to refurbish the

former warehouse would allow the site to continue its historical tradition of benefiting the local community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. I lend my strong support to this project and believe it deserves consideration for receipt of CPA funding. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy F. Friedman". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cindy F. Friedman
State Senator, Fourth Middlesex