

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting Community Project Funding for the Town of Easton Sam Wright Field Stream and Floodplain Restoration in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Easton, located at 136 Elm Street, Easton, MA 02356.

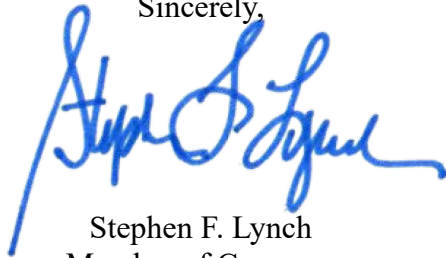
The funding will be used to remove two deteriorated corrugated metal pipe culverts, one reinforced concrete pipe, and a concrete headwall that encumbers Mulberry Meadow Brook, and to restore the floodplain and reestablish the natural physical and biological conditions of the waterways. This work will help ensure water quality in the surrounding watershed by reestablishing natural flow, improving drought and flood resilience, reconnecting wetlands, and reducing unnaturally high water levels that contribute to flooding and infrastructure damage.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will enhance the ecological functions of the brook, wetlands, floodplain, and wildlife habitats, thereby improving water quality throughout the watershed, flood storage capacity, and connectivity among aquatic and wildlife habitats. Sam Wright Field in the Town of Easton has been heavily influenced by historical agricultural practices. Today, it is owned and managed by the Town of Easton Conservation Commission as part of the 1,000-acre Wheaton Farm Conservation Area. The wetland restoration potential of Sam Wright Field was assessed in The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 2018 Mill River Watershed Wetland Restoration Model Verification Project and received the highest possible score based on the site's ability to abate flooding and alleviate water quality impacts to downstream communities receiving waters. Mulberry Meadow Brook, at the heart of the site, is encumbered by two deteriorated corrugated metal pipe culverts, a reinforced concrete pipe, and a concrete headwall, which affect aquatic habitat connectivity and cause unnecessary overflow flooding during heavy storms. Riparian restoration is imperative because the site is located within the Canoe River Aquifer 'Area of Critical Environmental Concern'—an area designated by the MA Secretary of Environmental Affairs as containing highly significant environmental resources—and is an EPA-designated Sole Source Aquifer, a primary drinking water source for Easton, Norton, Mansfield, Sharon, and Foxborough.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress