

HOUSE No. 1933

By Mr. Rotenberg of Brookline, petition of Jon Rotenberg for legislation to provide for an environmental impact review before the implementation of projects or programs by the Massachusetts Port Authority. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 2 of chapter 465 of the acts of 1956 as amended
2 most recently by chapter 449 of the acts of 1968 is hereby
3 amended by adding the following paragraphs: —

4 In carrying out the responsibilities and authority granted to
5 it under this act, the Authority shall at all times give recogni-
6 tion to the profound impact man's activities have on the
7 interrelatedness of all components of the natural environment
8 and shall therefore strive to:

9 (i) assure for all citizens of the Commonwealth safe, health-
10 ful, productive and esthetically and culturally pleasing sur-
11 roundings;

12 (ii) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environ-
13 ment without degradation, risk to health or safety or other
14 undesirable and unintended consequences;

15 (iii) preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects
16 of the Commonwealth, and

17 (iv) achieve a balance between population and resource use
18 which will permit high standards of living and wide sharing of
19 life's amenities, and,

20 In further recognition of the above, the Authority shall
21 include in every recommendation, request, or report on any
22 action of the Authority which affects the quality of the human
23 environment or the lives, homes or lands of any resident of the
24 Commonwealth, a detailed statement for the Board and for
25 legislative, executive and public review on:

- 26 (i) the environmental impact of the proposed action;
- 27 (ii) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be
28 avoided should the proposal be implemented;
- 29 (iii) alternatives to the proposed action;
- 30 (iv) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's
31 environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-
32 term productivity;
- 33 (v) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of re-
34 sources which would be involved in the proposed action should
35 it be implemented, and
- 36 (vi) the Authority shall study, develop and describe appro-
37 priate alternatives to recommend courses of action in any
38 proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alterna-
39 tive uses of available resources.

40 The Authority, in exercising the powers and responsibilities
41 under this act shall take no action or proposed action in any
42 area affecting the quality of human and ecological environ-
43 ments until the above required statement has been released,
44 circulated and commented on by the Board, the state legisla-
45 ture and the Executive Office and the public.