



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

**ROSELEE VINCENT**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF THE  
16TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
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Joint Committees on:  
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August 6, 2020

The Honorable Charles D. Baker  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

I write this letter today in support of the Town of Saugus' request that your administration reinstate the Regional Saugus River Floodgate Project. On July 13, 2020, by a majority vote, the members of Saugus Town Meeting asked that you, in coordination with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Army Corps. of Engineers, work together to help make this project a reality. This project would not only protect 5,000 coastal residential and commercial buildings in Saugus, Revere, Lynn and Malden, but would also be critical in restoring portions of the East Saugus Marshes.

As the State Representative who represents the Riverside neighborhood of Revere, neighborhoods in East Saugus along the Saugus River, as well as neighborhoods in West Revere that are susceptible to flooding due to the Town Line Brook which flows off the Pines River, I can attest that this project is sorely needed now. During my tenure in office, these neighborhoods have experienced increased flooding events as severe coastal storms with large tidal surges are becoming more and more frequent with each passing year.

I would also be remiss if I did not point out that along the Pines River is the Wheelabrator Saugus incinerator, whose unlined ash landfill is adjacent to the banks of the river. A major concern for the residents who live in the Riverside neighborhood in Revere is that one day, a severe coastal storm will breach the landfill, sending contaminants flowing into the river, down their streets and into their homes, as well as flowing into the Atlantic Ocean and America's First Public Beach. I believe that reinstating and prioritizing the Regional Saugus River Floodgate Project will have a positive lasting impact for years to come, and will not only protect property, but perhaps even save lives from a major catastrophic weather event. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**RoseLee Vincent**  
State Representative  
Sixteenth Suffolk District

CC: Secretary Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs