



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02193-1053

SENATOR JOHN A. HART, JR.
FIRST SUFFOLK DISTRICT
ROOM 520, STATE HOUSE
TEL. 617-722-1150

SENATE CHAIRMAN
JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR
VICE-CHAIRMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BILLS IN THE THIRD READING
COMMITTEES:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING & POLICY

April 15, 2003

Jo Ann M. Gora
Chancellor
The University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Dorchester, MA 02125-3393

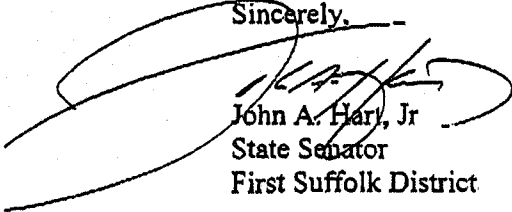
Dear Chancellor Gora:

We, the elected representatives of the Dorchester community, believe that the University of Massachusetts Boston's decision to build dormitory housing for 2000 students is the first step in the transformation of a commuter college to a residential college. We oppose this fundamental change in the public mission of U/Mass Boston. This fine public university was founded specifically 'to provide high quality educational opportunities to the residents of Boston and the surrounding communities, particularly those whose opportunities have been limited by income or race'. A significant shift in this mission and purpose should be thoroughly evaluated by both the Trustees of the University and the community. Additionally, there are those who believe that this decision should rest within the legislative branch on Beacon Hill. That has yet to be determined.

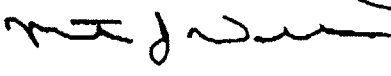
Many believe that U/Mass Boston has not fairly considered the legitimate concerns raised by the community. Its attitude towards its neighbors and elected officials has been questionable and suspect. An immediate halt to the dormitory planning efforts, followed by an extensive public discussion of the mission of U/Mass Boston, would be an important first step in addressing the valid community questions. Efforts must be initiated to restore public confidence in this process.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

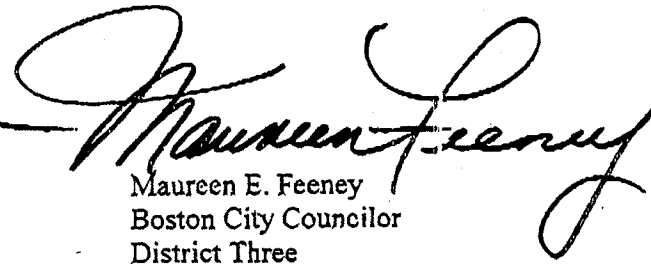
Sincerely,



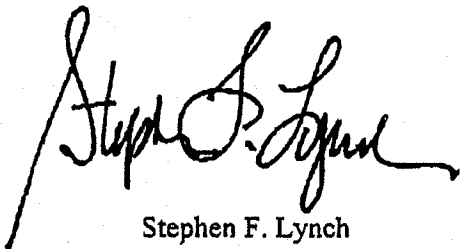
John A. Hart, Jr.
State Senator
First Suffolk District



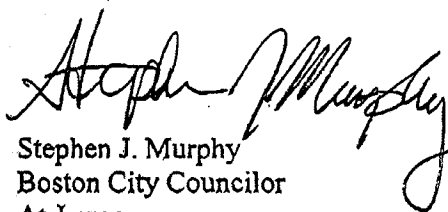
Martin J. Walsh.
Representative
13th Suffolk District



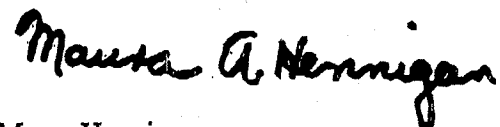
Maureen E. Feeney
Boston City Councilor
District Three



Stephen F. Lynch
Congressman
9th District
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts



Stephen J. Murphy
Boston City Councilor
At-Large



Maura Hennigan
Boston City Councilor
At-Large



Brian P. Wallace
Representative
4th Suffolk District