



September 30, 2024

Senator Edward M. Markey  
975 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St  
Boston, MA 02203

Senator Elizabeth Warren  
2400 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston, MA 02203

Congressman William Keating  
128 Union Street  
Suite 103  
New Bedford, MA 02740

## **Re: Help us Stop Sewer Overflows in New Bedford**

Dear Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Congressman Keating:

We, the undersigned **388 residents** of Massachusetts and 16 other states, write to you today to urge you to secure new federal funding for the cleanup of City of New Bedford's sewer system. We are part of the 1,733 people who have put our own bodies and our desire for a cleaner urban environment into New Bedford Harbor as part of the Buzzards Bay SWIM since 1994.

The SWIM was started by City residents who wanted to draw attention to water quality issues in New Bedford Harbor and make a physical statement that everyone has a right to clean water in their community. Since then, the event has grown to become one of our region's largest outdoor events and raises critical funds to support the work of the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

**That 29-year proud legacy was shattered this year when on June 21<sup>st</sup> the SWIM was cancelled because of a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) from the New Bedford sewer system. The evening before our SWIM, 7.25 Million gallons of sewage contaminated water was released into the Harbor, 2.25 Million of it adjacent to the Swim Start Line and the City's popular swimming beaches.**

**It is entirely unacceptable that such an event still happens in our Bay in the year 2024.**

[www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org)

Built in 1852, the City of New Bedford's sewer system includes 27 CSO pipes designed to release sewage and road runoff when it rains. They are connected to 254 miles of sewer lines beneath the city, representing an enormous infrastructure challenge for this community. Most rains these days result in some amount of raw sewage discharge in the City, which are now regularly reported on a real-time city website (<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/public-infrastructure/wastewater/new-bedford-cso-report/>)

This continues to happen in New Bedford despite decades of improvements to the wastewater system which have cost taxpayers \$602 Million since 1990. These investments have produced a >90% reduction in CSO volumes and have led to visible improvements to Harbor water quality. We all have experienced these positive changes as swimmers each year.

**Yet, unacceptable CSO discharges continue. Current City estimates suggest that another \$1.2 Billion is needed to eliminate this nineteenth-century problem from our waters.** City residents who already pay high sewer rates cannot be expected to foot this bill. But it must be corrected. We all benefit from clean water in southeastern MA, not just swimmers, but our region's aquaculture and wild shellfish industry, tourism base, and New Bedford's continued economic development demand it.

That's why we are reaching out to you to do much more to help the City of New Bedford fix this problem once and for all. **We need \$1.2 Billion**, a cost that no longer feels outlandish with the same amount recently being awarded for Phase I of the Cape Cod Canal bridges project. New Bedford and Buzzards Bay's future depends on clean and safe water, just as the Cape's economy depends on those bridges.

We stand ready to assist you in this appeal and advocate on behalf of this issue wherever needed. We are supported in this effort by the staff and volunteers of the Buzzards Bay Coalition and ask that you communicate with Mark Rasmussen ([rasmussen@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto:rasmussen@savebuzzardsbay.org)) and Korrin Petersen ([petersen@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto:petersen@savebuzzardsbay.org)) of the Coalition in response to this letter.

Sincerely,



Mark Rasmussen, President of Buzzards Bay Coalition  
on behalf of **388 individual Signers** attached below

cc: Governor Maura Healey  
State Senator Michael Rodrigues  
State Senator Mark Montigny

State Representative Chris Markey  
 State Representative Antonio Cabral  
 State Representative William Straus  
 State Representative Christopher Hendricks  
 State Representative Paul Schmid  
 Mayor Jon Mitchell, City of New Bedford  
 New Bedford City Council  
 Fairhaven Select Board  
 Dartmouth Select Board  
 Dave Cash, Regional Administrator, EPA-Region 1  
 Rebecca Tepper, MA Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
 Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, MA Department of Environmental Protection

**Buzzards Bay SWIM Participants signing this letter**

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CITY	STATE
Nick	Albina	Boxford	MA
Judy	Allen	Natick	MA
Chris	Alves	Taunton	MA
Mitch	Alves	Andover	MA
Christian	Andrade	Worcester	MA
Lea	Anthony	New Bedford	MA
Jane	Antin	Wareham	MA
Sarah	Arruda	Dartmouth	MA
Gabrielle	Arruda	Dartmouth	MA
Mills	Asa	Westport	MA
Sarah	Ashley	New Bedford	MA
Edith	Aucoin	Bourne	MA
Jared	Baker	Milton	MA
Taylor	Baldwin	Marion	MA
Jeanne	Ball	Fairhaven	MA
Grace	Ballenger	Boston	MA
Becky	Barlow	New Canaan	CT
Kim	Barry	Mattapoisett	MA
Marese	Barry-Belanger	Onset	MA
John	Bauer	Somerville	MA
Rebecca	Belastock	Falmouth	MA
Halle	Berger	New Bedford	MA
Robin B	Berry	Pocasset	MA
Felicia	Bianchi	Northampton	MA
Zabeth	Billingham	Weston	MA

Kate	Boerma	Dartmouth	MA
George	Borden	New Bedford	MA
Karla	Bosse	Taunton	MA
Margaret	Brandon	Falmouth	MA
Alyssa	Breault	Dartmouth	MA
Julie	Brenninkmeyer	South Dartmouth	MA
Diana	Brewer	New Bedford	MA
Marlissa	Briggett	Arlington	MA
Jane	Brown	Middleboro	MA
Stuart	Brown	Dartmouth	MA
Benjamin	Bryant	Brunswick	ME
Marianne	Buchinkas	West Falmouth	MA
Brendan	Buckless	Westport	MA
Joanna	Buckley	Moraga	CA
Peter	Burlinson	Mattapoisett	MA
Jenny	Burr	Fairhaven	MA
Ken	Burr	Fairhaven	MA
Kate	Butler	Mattapoisett	MA
Alexander	Butters	Fairhaven	MA
Rosanna	Byrnes	New Bedford	MA
Myrna	Caballero	Dartmouth	MA
Mollie	Calzone	Dartmouth	MA
Lizanne	Campbell	Mattapoisett	MA
Lucio	Castilla	Westborough	MA
Patrick	Clark	New Bedford	MA
Deborah	Clarke	Falmouth	MA
Peter	Clay	Falmouth	MA
Lisa	Cloitre	Hanover	NH
Fernando	Coelho	Acushnet	MA
Michelle	Colberg	Tiverton	RI
Barbara	Collins	North Providence	RI
Steven	Collins	Scituate	MA
Mary	Copp	Westport	MA
Heather	Cyr	New Bedford	MA
Michael	D	New Bedford	MA
Emily	Danforth	Fairhaven	MA
Abbie	Daniels	Marion	MA
Emily	Darrow	Rumford	RI
Colleen	Dawicki	New Bedford	MA
Sue	Daylor	Westport	MA
Robert	Daylor	Westport	MA

Kristen	Denette	Easton	MA
Erik	Dentemont	Ashland	MA
Robert	Dermody	Wareham	MA
Erika	DeRoche	Medford	MA
James	Dias	Mattapoisett	MA
Keri-Nicole	Dillman	Medford	MA
Kevin	DiSilvestro	Needham	MA
Renee	Domagala	New Bedford	MA
Denise	Donoghue	Pocasset	MA
Jill	Downing	Wellesley	MA
Christine	Doyle	Mattapoisett	MA
Franziska	Drummond	Middleboro	MA
Kathryn	Duff	New Bedford	MA
Stephen	Duffy	Somerset	MA
Melissa	Dyer	Wareham	MA
David	Ederer	Vero Beach	FL
Randall	Elgin	Rochester	MA
Katherine	Erickson	Southborough	MA
Ann	Espindola	Fairhaven	MA
Robert	Fallon	West Falmouth	MA
Aaron	Finley	Arcadia	CA
Lawrence	Finnerty	New Bedford	MA
Lawrence	Fish	West Falmouth	MA
Edward	Fish	Brookline	MA
Kimberly	Fletcher	Wellesley	MA
Peter	Fletcher	Dartmouth	MA
Christopher	Ford	Bridgewater	NJ
Bruce	Foucart	Fairhaven	MA
Greg	Foy	Hingham	MA
Darren	Fraser	Easton	MA
Allin	Frawley	Middleborough	MA
David	Friedman	Woods Hole	MA
Patricia	Furrey	Dartmouth	MA.
Eugene	Gallagher	New Bedford	MA
Anne	Galliher	Old Lyme	CT
Manuel	Garber	Winchester	MA
Christopher	Garner	Nashua	NH
Nathan	Garner	Portland	ME
Erin	Garris	New Bedford	MA
Paula	Gauthier	Westport	MA
Caroline	Genther	Centerville	MA

Danielle	Gilmore	Plymouth	MA
Meredith	Gilson	Falmouth	MA
Keith	Glavin	Marion	MA
Kristin	Glickman	Mashpee	MA
Peter	Gold	Wareham	MA
Linda	Gooding McGuire	Plymouth	MA
Daniel	Goulart	New Bedford	MA
Deborah	Gove	Falmouth	MA
Nicholas	Graca	Concord	MA
Adam	Guild	Westport	MA
Alexander	Hackman	Medford	MA
William	Haley	Summit	NJ
Robert	Hancock	Bristol	RI
Greta	Hardina	Marion	MA
Sam	Harris	Marion	MA
Alan	Harris	Marion	MA
Jessica	Harris	Marion	MA
Alyson	Haskell	Fairhaven	MA
David	Hastings	Woods Hole	MA
Craig	Hattabaugh	Falmouth	MA
Richard	Haupt	Wareham	MA
Kayley	Haupt	Pocasset	MA
Thea	Haupt	Pocasset	MA
Richard	Haupt	Pocasset	MA
Joe	Hebert	East Falmouth	MA
Rob	Hellstom	Fairhaven	MA
Laurie	Hellstrom	Fairhaven	MA
Adele	Hellstrom	Fairhaven	MA
Elliot	Henderson	New Bedford	MA
Paul	Henderson	Plymouth	MA
Richard	Hendey	Dartmouth	MA
Bill	Herbert	South Dartmouth	MA
Wendy	Hickey	Westwood	MA
Caitlyn	Hickey	Westwood	MA
Rachael	Higgins	New Bedford	MA
Kathryn	Hiller	Holden	MA
Bente	Hoegsberg	Little Compton	RI
Rose	Holder	Middletown	RI
Danielle	Holmes	Lakeville	MA
Savanna	Honan	Plymouth	MA
Deborah	Hood	Wareham	MA

Sandra	Hornig	Boston	MA
Autumn	Horseh	Marion	MA
Donald	Houghton	Wareham	MA
Donald	Houghton	Onset	MA
Alice	Howe	Pocasset	MA
Jay	Huber	Falmouth	MA
Susan	Hunter Revell	Rochester	MA
Mark	Hurley	Fairhaven	MA
Kate	Ibara	Chicago	IL
Rachel	Jakuba	Falmouth	MA
Eric	James	Acushnet	MA
Christina	Janulis	Watertown	MA
Patrick	Jenkins	Bourn	MA
Lenard	John	Westport	MA
Colleen	Johns	Mattapoisett	MA
Steve	Johnson	Westport	MA
Robb	Johnson	Cambridge	MA
Ben	Jones	New Bedford	MA
Jaclyn	Kain	Watertown	MA
Elizabeth	Kalife	Fairhaven	MA
Alexander	Kalife	new Bedford	MA
Steve	Kanovsky	Mattapoisett	MA
Steven	Kates	Fairhaven	MA
Alex	Katz	Newton	MA
Joseph	Kazen	Marion	MA
Cathy	Kert	Pocasset	MA
Diane	Keys	Norfolk	MA
John	Kingman	Dartmouth	MA
William	Krause	Boston	MA
Harri	Kytomaa	Belmont	MA
Sharon	Langan	Marion	MA
Christopher	Langlois	Providence	RI
David	Lapalme	Dartmouth	MA
Ethan	LaRue	Whitinsville	MA
Mark	Lavallee	New Bedford	MA
Edward	Lavin	Howard Beach	NY
Maureen	Layden	Fairhaven	MA
Paula	Lazaroff	Fairhaven	MA
John	Leary	Mystic	CT
Ashley	Leaver	Acushnet	MA
Samantha	LeBeau	Warren	RI

Christopher	Lee	Boston	MA
Michael	Lipp	Dartmouth	MA
Tracy	Lombardy	Attleboro	MA
Phil	Lowney	Dartmouth	MA
Dennis	Lucey	Little Compton	RI
Courtney	Lucey	West Newbury	MA
Elizabeth	Luchars	Newton	MA
Caitlyn	Lund	Rochester	MA
Mark	Luttmann	Westport	MA
Thomas	Lyons	Pocasset	MA
Heather	Machado	Dartmouth	MA
Mark	Madde	Wareham	MA
Stephen	Mahoney	Wellesley	MA
Frederick	Makrauer	Woods Hole	MA
Andrea	Marcovici	Dartmouth	MA
Eric	Marder	Bourne	MA
Frank	Mark	Cambridge	MA
Catherine	Markow	Wareham	MA
James	Martin	Springfield	VT
Eric	Matzen	Falmouth	MA
Kevin	Mawe	Dedham	MA
Brian	McCauley	Middleboro	MA
Allison	McCoy	Berkley	MA
Emma	McGinnis	Marion	MA
David	McGinnis	Marion	MA
Kelsey	McGinnis	Dartmouth	MA
Patricia	McGovern	New York	NY
Madeleine	McGuire	East Taunton	MA
Mary	McPherson	Wareham	MA
Sandra	Medeiros	Dartmouth	MA
Alexander	Medina	Fairhaven	MA
Sadie	Meehan	Marion	MA
Patrick	Meehan	Marion	MA
Steve	Meininger	Columbia	MD
Lara	Merullo	Dorchester	MA
Carolyn	Metvier	Rochester	MA
Erica	Miller	Berkley	MA
Michelle	Milligan	Harwich	MA
Smoky	Moak	New Bedford	MA
Linda	Moffatt	Mattapoisett	MA
Heather	Monoson	Somerset	MA



Cynthia	Monroe	Pocasset	MA
Paul	Mooney	Westport	MA
Nicole	Morris	Tiverton	RI
Bill	Muldoon	Mattapoisett	MA
Martin	Mulvey	Framingham	MA
Sara	Munger	Dartmouth	MA
Sarah	Murphy	Franklin	MA
Karen	Nelson	Lakeville	MA
Andrea	Newman	Attleboro	MA
Sabrina	Nikolov	Fairhaven	MA
Jackie	Nolan	Falmouth	MA
Alexandra	Norkin	Cataumet	MA
Mary	Nowak	Long Beach	CA
Harris	Nusbaum	Newton	MA
Justin	Nyweide	Wellesley	MA
David	O'Hara	Bourne	MA
Gwendolyn	O'Malley	Falmouth	MA
David	O'Malley	Falmouth	MA
Megan	O'Brien	New Bedford	MA
Nicole	O'Keeffe	Arlington	MA
Cameron Julian	Oliveira-Ramos	New Bedford	MA
Douglas	Olney	Brooklyn	NY
DaMase	Olsson	Surton	MA
Stephen	ONeill	Tucson	AZ
Tessa	P	Somerville	MA
Brett	Pacheco	New Bedford	MA
Allison	Paiva	New Bedford	MA
Dina	Pandya	Falmouth	MA
Bertha	Pantoja	Cambridge	MA
Gisele	Pappas	New Bedford	MA
Christine	Parks	Fairhaven	MA
Gerry	Payette	Bristol	RI
Jenny	Peace	Westport	MA
Jack	Pearson	Onset	MA
Wynn	Perlick	Westport	MA
Korrin	Petersen	Middleboro	MA
Dawna	Phillips	Framingham	MA
Carroll	Pierce	Woods Hole	MA
Bob	Pierce	Woods Hole	MA
Grace	Pietsch	Westport	MA
Nora	Politano	New Bedford	MA

Elizabeth	Pollin	Westport	MA
Suzanne	Pond	Edgartown	MA
Matthew	Poyant	Fairhaven	MA
Monique	Poyant	New Bedford	MA
Lorena	Pugh	North Kingstown	RI
Mark	Rasmussen	Dartmouth	MA
Marianne	Reardon	Marion	MA
Keith	Rego	San Diego	CA
Kate	Reilly	New Bedford	MA
Skylah	Reis	New Bedford	MA
Pamela	Reitsma	Wareham	MA
Adam	Reitz	Rochester	NY
Laura	Reuter	South Dartmouth	MA
Andrew	Revell	Rochester	MA
Richard	Rheinhardt	Pocasset	MA
Nicole	Rhind	South Dartmouth	MA
Nick	Rhind	Wellesley	MA
Christopher	Rhoads	West Falmouth	MA
Ann	Richard	Fairhaven	MA
Kristen	Riley	West Wareham	MA
Jon	Ritter	Dartmouth	MA
Lana	Rivera	New Bedford	MA
Laura	Robertson	Dartmouth	MA
Bryan	Robertson	South Dartmouth	MA
Andrea	Robinson	Mattapoisett	MA
Jennifer	Robinson	Newport	RI
Chris	Roemlein	Tiverton	RI
Sarah	Rose	Fairhaven	MA
Kevin	Rose	Pocasset	MA
Margaret	Rose	Pocasset	MA
Sarah	Roubik	Corvallis	MT
Tanya	Roy	Wellesley	MA
Anastasia	Rudenko	Centerville	MA
Donald	Rudnick	Dartmouth	MA
Catherine	Sampson	Pocasset	MA
Arthur Wayne	Sampson	Pocasset	MA
Dhara	Sananikone-Evans	Wareham	MA
Jeffrey	Sawyer	Bourne	MA
Chris	Schlesinger	Westport	MA
John	Schluter	Mattapoisett	MA.
Stephen	Seavey	North Conway	NH

Eitan	Sengupta	Newton	MA
Joshua	Sherman	Westport	MA
Glenn	Simon	Durham	NC
Isabel	Simpson	Fairhaven	MA
Lynn	Simpson	Fairhaven	MA
Lissa	Singer	Rehoboth	MA
Tyler	Sjahfiedin	Mattapoisett	MA
David	Small	Barrington	RI
Alison	Smart	Dartmouth	MA
Nancy J	Smith	Dartmouth	MA
Anne	Smith	Fairhaven	MA
Kathleen H	Smith	Edgartown	MA
Mark	Snyderman	Falmouth	MA
Polly	Spring	Stonington	CT
Jane	Staunton	Roslindale	MA
Darrow	Stephens	South Dartmouth	MA
Isabelle	Stewart	Pocasset	MA
Eric	Stoermer	Falmouth	MA
David	Stricker	Newton	MA
Mary-Jane	Strom	Alameda	CA
Mark	Sullivan	Fairhaven	MA
Julie	Sullivan	Fairhaven	MA
Mark	Sullivan	Fairhaven	MA
Sean	Sullivan	Dartmouth	MA
Lorene	Sweeney	New Bedford	MA
Sarah	Sweney	Brooklyn	NY
Joney	Swift	South Dartmouth	MA
Doug	Swoish	Oak Harbor	WA
Scott	Swoish	Fripp Island	SC
Jonathan	Talamo	Mattapoisett	MA
Ruth	Tannert	Roslindale	MA
Dana	Tatlock	Mattapoisett	MA
Rhea	Teves-Cate	Fairhaven	MA
Cassie	Thomson	Dover	MA
Robert	Tirocchi	North Scituate	RI
Andrea	Tishman	Mattapoisett	MA
Shari	Tishman	Mattapoisett	MA
Megan	Titas	Falmouth	MA
Justin	Tonelli	Foxboro	MA
Dawn	Tremblay	Warwick	RI
Stephanie	Trott	Fairhaven	MA

Leslie	Trott	Fairhaven	MA
Merin	Troutman	Mystic	CT
Robert	Tullman	Newport	RI
Kimberly	Tulloch	Maplewood	NJ
Cassidy	Vaccari	Dartmouth	MA
Janet	Vacon	Falmouth	MA
Lori	Vance	Brookline	NH
Daniel	Vasconcellos	Pembroke	MA
Judd	Vear	Bath	ME
Rhonda	Veugen	Wareham	MA
Jessica	Voci	Lakeville	MA
Dorothea	Von Herder	Boston	MA
Kathleen	walker	Orleans	MA
Mark	Weaver	Tiverton	RI
Jason	Webb	Melrose	MA
Philip	Weinstein	Westport	MA
Wendy	West	Portland	ME
Mark	West	Nottingham	NH
Mollie	Westrick	Lincoln	RI
Judith	Westrick	Lincoln	RI
Cindy	White	Westhampton	MA
Laurel	White	Onset	MA
Alexander	white	Mattapoisett	MA
Jack	Whittier	South Hamilton	MA
Denyce	Wicht	Fairhaven	MA
Maureen	Wieler	Pocasset	MA
Aidan	Wieler	Pocasset	MA
Bill	Wieler	Pocasset	MA
Rebecca	Williams	Dennis	MA
David	Wilusz	Acushnet	MA
Victoria	Wood	New Bedford	MA
Peggy	Wood	South Dartmouth	MA
Elizabeth S	Woodley	Pocasset	MA
Steven	Yoo	Ashland	MA
Martha	Yules	Dartmouth	MA