

## **Mothers Out Front Lincoln Public Comment in Response to EEA #16654 February 3, 2023**

Mothers Out Front Lincoln opposes the proposed development and expansion of Hanscom Field North Airfield. Our Lincoln team is an ambitious group of mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers ready to take on the many important environmental challenges we face, both locally and globally. We are excited to be joining a powerful grassroots movement to ensure a swift, complete, and just transition away from fossil fuels. We believe EEA #16654 would negatively impact our community and contribute to climate change and environmental degradation at a time when we are trying to move toward net-zero. Further, we have concerns about the impacts of expansion on environmental justice communities.

Climate change is an emergency that requires urgent action to move away from fossil fuel emissions. EEA #16654 would increase fossil fuel emissions. Despite claims of reduced ferry flights, there is no supporting data available to the public. Prior similar expansions failed to reduce ferry flights. Private jets are a particular concern, with an outsized carbon footprint for the very wealthy. Our children and grandchildren need a liveable future. We cannot accept profits for the few now that lead to a cascade of harmful effects for everyone else into the future.

Paving and construction for EEA #16654 creates more runoff and reduces soil-based carbon storage potential and wildlife habitat. Runoff from paved surfaces of an airfield likely carries pollution, increasing the burden for wastewater treatment and creating potential for untreated water to contaminate local waterways. Paving and construction on open spaces means loss of a critical nature-based climate solution: when there are no longer plants to capture carbon from the atmosphere, they can no longer store a portion of that carbon in the soil. Building also causes habitat destruction, stressing wildlife and potentially leading to a loss of biodiversity that makes our ecosystems less resilient in the face of our changing climate. We as humans are interconnected members of our ecosystems; what hurts wildlife, ultimately hurts us.

A portion of the communities around Hanscom Airfield are environmental justice populations, as defined by the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. These are communities already burdened by noise pollution and water quality concerns, including lead contamination in water. EEA #16654 would only increase burdens on these communities. We do not believe the planning process sufficiently included the voices and input of surrounding environmental justice communities.

We believe EEA #16654 represents an example of profits over people. We see Hanscom as a part of the Lincoln community. We urge you to do the same, and in light of the myriad negative community impacts posed by EEA #16654, consider the broader and longer-lasting benefits of leaving space undeveloped. We are particularly concerned about development that enables further fossil fuel emissions, as in this case. We urge you to rethink EEA #16654 and bring in broader community engagement, including from environmental justice communities.