

**February 25<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**To: Sudbury Rail Trail Commission**

**From Paul Cavicchio**

**My name is Paul Cavicchio and I am the owner of Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc.. We are located at 110 Codjer Lane in Sudbury. My grandfather, Guiseppe, bought the farm in 1910 and I am the third generation to operate this farm. My son Jake, who has been working for me for 12 years, is the fourth generation. Our farm has grown to be one of the largest suppliers of flowering plants in Massachusetts, servicing garden centers, farm stands and chain stores. We are important to the industry because we are so close to the market place and can keep our pricing competitive because we don't have the high cost of trucking.**

**At Cavicchio Greenhouses we believe in Sustainable Floriculture. We are starting to minimize our impact on the environment by recycling our plastic pots and trying to use biodegradable pots. We recycle yard waste to produce very high quality compost that we use in our fields and in our loam mix. Our employees are our biggest assets so we put a lot of energy into their growth and well being with good salaries, health care, profit sharing and 401K. We believe if they are successful then we will be successful.**

**Our concern with the Rail Trail is that the tracks cross our fields as well as the driveway at the entrance to the farm. We have about 1300 feet of fields that border the railroad, on both sides, and we are very concerned that if people are using the trail when we are spraying they may come in contact with sprays. There is also a Massachusetts pesticide application law that says no one can enter a field at a minimum of 4 hours after an application of chemicals. We would have to notify people that we are spraying and I don't know how that would be accomplished or enforced. The entrance to the farm crosses the railroad tracks and there are about 200 vehicles and farm tractors per hour that cross the tracks. This traffic poses a concern for public safety and raises the threat of liability to Cavicchios. Trespassing is also an issue as is the possibility of theft, a temptation made far more attractive if there is easy access to the property.**

**As we are a wholesale operation, there is no financial advantage I can see to making public access available on the property, whereas there are clear disadvantages to my business.**

**There are only a few farms remaining in Sudbury today, and these farms border over a mile and a half of railroad tracks. As you consider the benefits of converting these old tracks for public access, I implore the committee to also consider the impact on established businesses and agriculture. Preserving open space and farmland has been a priority of my family business. I hope that will continue for many generations. Yet something as apparently innocent, and even desirable to the**

**public as the proposed Rail Trail can impact working farms in ways that may be irreversible.**

**In 1930 Henry Ford offered my grandfather thirteen times the value of his land so that he could build a parts factory in Sudbury. My grandfather refused because the land was his life. Thirty years later the town fathers thanked him for not selling his land because they understood how that would have changed the character of Sudbury. It has been my inheritance and my privilege to carry on this heritage.**

**We cannot now predict the impact of the Rail Trail on the town of Sudbury in thirty years. I would greatly appreciate it if your committee would consider my concerns and the concerns of other businesses and individuals who could be affected over the long term.**

**Respectfully ,**

**Paul Cavicchio, Jr.**