

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Raina McManus, Chair
Laura Robert, Vice Chair
Bea Bezmalinovic
Allison Burson
Jay McHale

Brandon Schmitt, Director
Telephone: 781.431.1019, Ext. 2298
Website: www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC

September 22, 2021

To: Magda Garncarz at magdalena.garncarz@mahouse.gov and Dina Nathanson at dina.nathanson@masenate.gov

H1849– Wellesley Natural Resources Commission – Judiciary Committee - SUPPORT

The Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is writing to **express strong support for House Bill 1849, An act relative to the protection of trees from interference by abutting property owners**, which will receive a hearing on Thursday September 23, 2021 by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

The NRC is an elected board whose mission is to provide stewardship of, education about, and advocacy for the Town of Wellesley's parks, conservation, recreation and open space areas so the full value of the Town's natural assets can be passed onto future generations.

Having trees on a property not only enhances its aesthetic value, but also its environmental value in a host of ways. Residents appreciate knowing that their trees are protected from harm under signed legislature. Wellesley has the oldest Tree City USA status in New England. It also has adopted a Tree Preservation Bylaw to enhance further protection on residential trees. The residents value our tree protection measures, putting concerns about potential tree conflicts at ease, and protecting some of the communities most beloved resources.

We urge passage of this important bill, and thank Representative Decker and Senator Creem for their sponsorship and work.

Sincerely,

Brandon Schmitt, Director
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Cc:
Representative Marjorie Decker
Senator Cynthia Creem
Representative Alice Peisch