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September 8, 2011

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Commission,

I was very disappointed – indeed unpleasantly surprised – to read of the decision that is making it impossible for the Meditech Company to build a facility in the town of Freetown, which will be very much in the interest of the town, the region and the entire state. I recognize the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, but the order given to Meditech is clearly disproportionate with regard to the interests at stake, and as one who believes that we should maintain a legislative framework in which we show some respect for our history in its various forums, I believe that this sort of action is a great threat to our ability to maintain support for such laws. It makes no sense for public policy to be conducted by a form of absolutism that rules out any sort of balance for the greater good. I should add that I was very pleased to be part of the effort to make it possible, through changes in our transportation infrastructure, for Meditech to be located in Freetown, and we are of course talking about a part of the state that has been unfairly treated by national economic policies for many many years, leading to an unemployment situation there that is worse than it is elsewhere in the state.

There is no good argument that can be made for the order that has been given to Meditech , which of course makes any construction on that site economically impossible, and I can see no argument that there is any benefit in terms of preservation that justifies this. I urge you strongly to reformulate your position and to withdraw this effective ban on the construction of this important facility.


BARNEY FRANK