



The Livestock Institute

of Southern New England

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WESTPORT
PLANNING BOARD

May 15, 2023

Mr. Michael Burris, Town Planner
Town of Westport Planning Board
856 Main Road
Westport MA 02790

Dear Mr. Burris,

Please accept this letter as a strong recommendation for the approval of the sewer extension down in Route 6 in Westport MA.

The Livestock Institute (TLI) of Southern New England built Meatworks, a state-of-the-art meat-processing plant, in 2017-2018 to address the lack of quality processing facilities in our region. As a start up in the middle of COVID, the last three and a half years have been challenging keeping the plant open and fully staffed at the same time while dealing with serious inflationary financial pressures.

On the positive side, the impacts to Westport and the immediate region have been very substantial. We have provided services to over 800 farms and producers in the region and have employed on average between 25-30 full time people on staff, considerably more than our projected 15-17 employees.

The extension of the sewer on Route 6 is a critical piece of the both the financial stabilization of current operations at TLI/Meatworks and our expansion in the future. Since opening, we have incurred significant costs to truck our animal waste water to the local treatment plants. Connecting to a sewer system would eliminate that cost and be a major component to address the inflationary impacts to our overall costs structure and enable us to reach full financial stabilization.

Just as important, we have proven the demand for our processing services. In fact, we see demand building and strongly believe that, with the sewer expansion and our connection, TLI/ Meatworks will be able to significantly increase the benefits to the Town and the region both by expanding our facility, thus supporting agricultural production in our region and job growth at our facility.

If there is anything our organization can do to support this effort, please let us know...

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Burnes, Chairman