



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

485 Ware Road
Belchertown MA 01007
(413) 213-0454
fax: (413) 213-0537
email: info@wscac.org

February 7, 2022

Dear Executive Director Laskey and Members of the MWRA Board of Directors,

WSCAC members would like to offer congratulations on MWRA's settlement agreement with CSXT. The terms of agreement provide MWRA with much needed improvements on safety issues along the reservoir segment within the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed.

Track upgrades to Class 3 classifications, scheduled maintenance and inspections as well as lower speeds and no idling within the reservoir segment will serve to lower the risk of a derailment. The development of emergency response plans and trainings to address risks associated with the transportation of hazardous materials will improve communication between state agencies and emergency responders, and will increase the ability to respond quickly and efficiently.

WSCAC notes that the CSXT agreement will provide a monthly report to MWRA that will document all items including hazardous cargo transported during the prior month. We suggest that MWRA request the Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) that CSXT receives from shipping companies before hazardous cargo moves across the reservoir segment. Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to provide Material Safety Data Sheets with all shipments. OSHA regulations require manufacturers and importers to provide information on the hazard of their chemicals to persons using or distributing those chemicals. Advance notice would provide MWRA with improved options for protection of the public drinking water supply.

We thank you for your long standing efforts that have led to this comprehensive agreement.

Sincerely,

Jerry Eves, WSCAC Chair