**From:** Ben Cronin <cronigan@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, March 21, 2021 3:46 PM
**To:** Kenneth Buckland
**Subject:** Letter Opposed to Rezoning

Dear Mr. Buckland,

     I have attached, as well as copied-and-pasted below, a letter I wrote, both to the Editor of the *Wareham Courier-Sentinel* and the Wareham public at large, opposing the proposal to redevelop the land in question in East Wareham.

     I would be very much obliged if you would publish it on the Town's website.

    Sincerely,

   Benjamin Cronin, Ph.D.

To the Editor, *Wareham Courier Sentinel*:

I urge the citizens of Wareham to reject the proposal to rezone land adjacent to Red Brook to make it available for the construction of hotels, casinos, and other commercial uses. Wareham currently possesses an inalienable birthright in the form of its forests, streams, and marshes, and it ought not to trade that birthright, as the Old Testament puts it, for a bowl of gruel.

        Though I no longer reside in Wareham, I did live in East Wareham, right next to the proposed zoning changes, and I think it would be seriously short-sighted -- penny-wise and pound-foolish -- to allow the continued destruction of our local ecosystems for the sake of more pavement, and more sprawl.

        For make no mistake: Red Brook, and its surrounding Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens, are rare across the entire Earth. Both our pine forests, and a stream that supports salter (ocean-going) brook trout, are an essential part of what makes Wareham a beautiful place.

        I wrote several chapters of my doctoral dissertation in History on early Wareham. One thing that comes through with shining clarity, in Wareham and in its neighboring towns, is the vigorous and continual efforts the Town made to preserve its common resources, whether forest, herring, oysters, saltmarsh, or bog iron. Indeed, part of the New England ethos, then and now, was that the Common Good was prior to, and superior to, private gain.

      With hundreds of acres of commercial real estate currently lying empty in Wareham, it is not clear why a globally rare ecosystem, and a critical sink of carbon dioxide in this era of climate change, should be destroyed so that corporate developers may further boost their profit margins. President Dwight D. Eisenhower famously warned of a Military Industrial Complex; what we seem to have here in southeastern Massachusetts is a Realtor-Developer Industrial Complex, that exercises undue influence on our local and state governments.

    The experience of recent decades shows that these forces would pave every piece of land between Boston and Buzzards Bay if not stopped. Only an outraged and mobilized citizenry can prevent that, and preserve the Common woods, waters, and rights of Wareham and her neighbors.

      Sincerely,

                Benjamin Cronin, Ph.D.
                Duxbury (formerly of East Wareham)