

To the Editor:

Recently, we learned that the proposed Hillman project has officially been defeated. While the massive ISO-NE interconnection upgrade bill ultimately delivered the financial knockout blow to the developer, we cannot overlook the true catalyst for this victory: our community's relentless pushback.

In battles against deep-pocketed developers, every single delay matters. By challenging their filings, showing up at municipal and state hearings, and staunchly supporting our Board of Health's tough stance under M.G.L. c. 111, residents systematically slowed the developer's timeline.

As we learned, timing is everything. Forcing those local delays pushed Hillman's execution window right into the release of ISO-NE's Transitional Cluster Study. Had the developer been able to rush through easy local approvals early on, they might have locked in contract terms long before those massive grid fees landed. We didn't just delay them—we ran out their clock.

Furthermore, we did not just say "no"; we brought the facts. Our community members and the Board of Health built a strong, undeniable public record regarding the groundwater, fire safety, and environmental risks this project posed. Hillman knew that overcoming this well-documented record would be an expensive, uphill battle in court.

We couldn't control the regional grid fees, but we could control how hard we fought for our town. This victory is a testament to what happens when a community stands united, does its homework, and refuses to back down.

Thank you to every resident and local official who showed up and spoke out.

**Sincerely,
Sandra Poole**