TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH

TOWN HALL - 34 WEST MAIN STREET, WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
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October 23, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Bedford, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Andy Jassy, Chief Executive Officer
Amazon.com, Inc.
410 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

RE: Joint Request for a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment and Meaningful Municipal Engagement Regarding Amazon Prime Air in Westborough, Massachusetts

Dear Administrator Bedford and Mr. Jassy:

On behalf of the Westborough Select Board and the Select Boards and Mayors of the 16 impacted communities, we write to express our collective concerns regarding Amazon's proposed Prime Air drone delivery operation in Westborough, Massachusetts, and to affirm our strong support for the request by Senators Edward J. Markey and Elizabeth Warren and Representatives James P. McGovern and Lori Trahan that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) require a site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) before authorizing the proposed operation.

As elected municipal leaders, we have a responsibility to protect the health, safety, quality of life, and environmental interests of our residents. Although the proposed facility is located in Westborough, the potential effects of its operations extend beyond municipal boundaries. Flight paths, noise, environmental impacts, public safety considerations, and demands on emergency services may affect neighboring communities throughout the region.

We recognize that drone delivery technology is evolving. However, the introduction of commercial drone delivery at this scale requires a thorough understanding of its potential consequences before operations begin. We believe the proposed operation should not proceed until a defensible, site-specific Environmental Assessment has been completed, affected communities have had a meaningful opportunity to participate, and the FAA has adequately considered the issues raised through that process.

The FAA should not rely solely on an existing nationwide environmental finding that may not adequately reflect Westborough and the surrounding region. New England's distinctive

characteristics, including historic town centers, residential neighborhoods, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and seasonal weather conditions, warrant a site-specific assessment.

The assessment should evaluate the anticipated regional and cumulative impacts of the proposed operation, including noise, public safety, lithium-ion battery fires, privacy, emergency response, and effects on natural resources. It should consider the scale of operations, potential future growth, and impacts across municipal boundaries.

Because the proposed operation may affect communities beyond Westborough, we request that the FAA engage the Westborough Select Board and the Select Boards and Mayors of Ashland, Berlin, Boylston, Grafton, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Millbury, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Sutton, Upton, West Boylston, and Worcester. Affected municipalities and residents should have a meaningful opportunity to review relevant environmental, technical, and operational information; identify local concerns; and comment on the assessment before the FAA makes its determination. The FAA should explain how substantive concerns raised during this process have been considered.

We recognize that municipal authority over commercial drone operations may raise questions of federal preemption and other legal considerations. The environmental review should not resolve these questions, determine compliance with local zoning requirements, or replace applicable municipal proceedings. Rather, it should provide information that enables the communities to evaluate potential community impacts through its established local processes, consistent with applicable law. In particular, the assessment should provide local land use boards with relevant information about anticipated flight frequency, operating hours, aircraft noise characteristics, and other operational details.

We support a robust public comment period, public access to relevant environmental and operational information, and meaningful consideration of concerns raised by municipalities and residents before the FAA makes its determination.

The FAA should explain how public comments inform its decision and identify any necessary mitigation measures or operating conditions. Amazon should cooperate with the FAA and affected municipalities, provide relevant information, and designate a municipal point of contact. The review process should be transparent and demonstrate how community concerns have been considered before a final decision is made.

In support of the congressional delegation's request, we respectfully ask the FAA and Amazon to:

1. **Require a site-specific Environmental Assessment**. The FAA should require a rigorous assessment of the proposed Westborough Prime Air operation before authorizing the operation to commence.
2. **Evaluate regional and cumulative impacts**. The assessment should address reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, including noise, public safety, environmental effects, privacy, emergency response considerations, and impacts across all affected communities.

3. **Provide meaningful municipal participation.** The Westborough Select Board and the Select Boards and Mayors of the 15 other impacted communities should have a reasonable opportunity to review relevant information, identify local concerns, and submit comments before the FAA makes its determination.
4. **Ensure robust public participation and transparency.** The process should include an appropriate public comment period, accessible environmental and operational information, and substantive consideration of concerns raised by municipalities and residents.
5. **Address the findings before authorizing operations**. The FAA should complete the environmental review and address the issues identified through that process before authorizing operations to commence, undertaking any additional review required by applicable law if the assessment identifies the potential for significant environmental impacts.

We support responsible innovation and ask that the proposed operation be evaluated on sound evidence, with full consideration of its regional impacts and meaningful participation by affected municipalities and their residents.

We stand with Senators Markey and Warren and Representatives McGovern and Trahan in requesting a site-specific Environmental Assessment before the proposed Amazon Prime Air operation proceeds. We urge the FAA to ensure that community concerns are considered and addressed through this process.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response regarding the assessment and opportunities for municipal participation.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTBOROUGH SELECT BOARD
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

AND THE SELECT BOARDS AND MAYORS OF THE FOLLOWING IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

Town of Ashland
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of Berlin
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of Boylston
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of Grafton
By:

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Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of Hopkinton
By:

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Name:
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Date:

Town of Hudson
By:

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Name:
Title:
Date:

City of Marlborough
By:

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Name:
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Town of Millbury
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Town of Northborough
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Town of Shrewsbury
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Town of Southborough
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Date:

Town of Sutton
By:

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Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of Upton
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

Town of West Boylston
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

City of Worcester
By:

_____
Name:
Title:
Date:

cc:
The Honorable Edward J. Markey, United States Senator
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren, United States Senator
The Honorable James P. McGovern, United States Representative
The Honorable Lori Trahan, United States Representative
The Honorable Maura Healey, Governor of Massachusetts
The Honorable Kim Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts
The Honorable Peter J. Durant, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable Jamie Eldridge, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable Ryan C. Fattman, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable Robyn K. Kennedy, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable Michael O. Moore, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Massachusetts State Senator
The Honorable James Arena-DeRosa, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Kate Donaghue, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Daniel M. Donahue, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Paul K. Frost, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Carmine L. Gentile, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Danielle W. Gregoire, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Kate Hogan, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Hannah E. Kane, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Mary S. Keefe, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Meghan Kilcoyne, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable David LeBoeuf, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable John J. Mahoney, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable Joseph D. McKenna, Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable David K. Muradian, Jr., Massachusetts State Representative
The Honorable James J. O'Day, Massachusetts State Representative