

To the McLean Hospital Board of Trustees:

The "Citizens of Camden for Responsible Zoning" all have homes in Camden, Maine, and we oppose the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center that you have proposed to operate on the property known as Fox Hill. Fox Hill sits in the middle of a residential district, and placing a commercial facility there violates our zoning code. Your hospital is assisting a group of largely unknown investors, the majority of whom may not even reside in Camden, in their quest to re-write our zoning code for their own financial gain.

We purchased our homes in residential districts in Camden trusting that they would remain residential. Zoning ordinances are designed to protect the residents of a town from the noise, traffic and other hazards associated with commercial activity. They provide a reliable method to maintain safety in our homes and allow businesses to operate in strategic locations. Without proper zoning, the town will lose its idyllic character. While we do respect McLean as an institution, and we would welcome a drug and alcohol treatment facility operated by you to locate in our town, we simply want it placed in those areas already zoned to accommodate the use. Camden has approximately 80 parcels suitable for hospitals in the town's B-2 and B-3 zones; we do not need to sacrifice the character of our entire town by conscripting residential properties for this use.

Our numbers have grown with each week and will continue to grow as we reach out to other concerned residents. We have every confidence that this proposal will be defeated in a town vote, or if necessary, beyond a vote. But we remain hopeful that you will respect the wishes of the residents of Camden and not allow the process to continue, thus avoiding a long, costly and divisive fight. We will continue to exercise our right to oppose this threat to our peaceful, residential community until it is removed.

Sincerely,

Citizens of Camden for Responsible Zoning