



**TOWN OF DUDLEY**  
**Massachusetts**  
**Historical Commission**  
Dudley Municipal Complex  
71 West Main Street • Room 207  
Dudley, MA 01571

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Ms. Brona Simon SHPO & Executive Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston Massachusetts 02125-3314

Dudley Historical Commission supports Stevens LLC's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Application.

Dear Ms. Simon:

A worrisome disconnect, realized over the passage of time is occurring. It effects how many local communities perceive American history and their places in it. A reflexive and unconscious dismissal of the significance of many aspects of past and present local history both shape and distort a fundamental appreciation of how many Americans view themselves, their communities, and how they perceive the implications of America's professed ideals, as relating to their own lives. Sadly, our community is not immune from these misperceptions which have warped the thinking of many. The fact that many local communities exist in a dysfunctional local historical vacuum does not somehow exempt them from their civic duties and responsibilities. The Dudley Historical Commission is determined not to concede our community's surrender to this litany of loss, lost identity, responsibility, loyalty, and honor.

It will come as a surprise to many disconnected citizens. Local and national history goes hand in hand in writing the American story. They are inseparable and indivisible. The only difference in the intrinsic value of the historic patrimony and heritage of a village and a nation is a matter of scale. Aside from this, the nation and village are indivisible. Our best traditions cannot be upheld and passed on to our posterity if either of these aspects of American are ignored or dismissed.

With this realization local preservation efforts may come to be seen by many as an honorable and vital endeavor, and cease to be dismissed with the pernicious slander of "sentimentality" and derided with contempt and disdain.

The Stevens Linen Works architectural excellence and the longevity of its operations offer up admirable examples, unique in both American and Dudley history. The task and responsibility for its preservation does not lie in the past or the future. It is the duty of every generation, in its turn, to sustain. This mill conversion project is this generation's best chance to fulfill our responsibilities to these historically unique structures. The Stevens Linen Works conversion, as conceived by Mr. George Peterson and Stevens LLC, will meet all our responsibilities to our past, present, and future generations in this matter.

It is impossible, at this time, to envision another project which would realize such a favorable outcome and contain so many additional positive results for our community. Given the scale of this project, (164 rental units), Mr. Peterson's conversion plan is probably the last and best opportunity for economic intervention that would save these structures and crown the mutual economic and historical interests of the developer, the local community, and their remote posterity with resounding success.

The DHC feels that support for the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program application of Stevens LLC is crucial to the success of this endeavor. We have no doubt success would bolster the economic base, honor, and civic pride of this community. We are greatly encouraged by your support for past Stevens LLC rehabilitation tax credit applications and we

urge your continued support for the current application. This is the only historical rescue in our town that contains the potential for such a huge renewal of the social, civic, and economic fabric of our community. Private and public interests would flourish in such a way as to make the Stevens Linen Works mill conversion an impressive example of the realized goals of the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.

Thank you for your attention.  
Michael Branniff

Secretary  
Dudley Historical Commission

cc Preservation Massachusetts  
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Attn Erin D. A. Kelly  
Assistant Director

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