



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

## JOSEPH R. DRISCOLL

REPRESENTATIVE

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**Committees:**  
Ways and Means  
Revenue  
Financial Services

November 10, 2009

Jack M. Wilson, President  
The University of Massachusetts  
225 Franklin St 33rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear President Wilson:

I write to you to strongly urge you to reconsider the University's decision to allow Raymond Luc Levasseur to speak at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Offering a spotlight to a man whose resume consists solely of extremist writings, a lengthy criminal record and, tragically, for being the architect to 20 bombings, including one in Massachusetts, is grossly inappropriate.

The planned forum for Mr. Levasseur is not simply in poor taste, but is an inflammatory and insulting gesture against the individuals who serve to protect us. I share the outrage of the law enforcement community, who know firsthand the cruelty and danger of Mr. Levasseur's words when put into action. As an elected official, I am committed to public safety and offering every available tool to police officers. The participation of Mr. Levasseur on your campus counters this promise and undermines the police bid to serve the public.

As a state college, your obligations as an institution go beyond fringe interpretations of free speech, and must take into account your status as an emblem of Massachusetts. It is a misconception that the rights of expression guaranteed to Mr. Levasseur are absolute; that providing a platform for individuals who have promoted hate, intolerance, and inspired violence is somehow protected under the concept of "academic freedom." Given the economic challenges facing the Commonwealth, I am sadly at a loss as to why tax dollars should be involved in such an event. I cannot fathom explaining to my constituents the use of their money on this threatening, harassing speech; I suggest you reconsider on behalf of the many hardworking people currently sending their children to your school for an education.

The twisted rationale behind the 1976 bombing at Suffolk County Courthouse should not be revisited. It is truly an affront to our social discourse, as well as a devastating slap in the face to law enforcement officials everywhere. I strongly urge you to rethink this man's presence at a public institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Driscoll".

Joseph Driscoll  
State Representative

