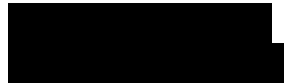




Julie Murray



October 16, 2020

Benjamin Wilson
Director - Division of Historical Resources
19 Pillsbury St, 2d Floor
Concord, NH 03301

Letter of Support for New Hampshire State Highway Historical Marker Request to
Commemorate the Disappearance of Maura Murray

Dear Mr. Wilson,

On behalf of my family, this letter is to show our support of Representative Debra DeSimone's recently submitted application for a New Hampshire (N.H.) State Highway Historical Marker. It is our understanding that the Marker would formally recognize the significance of the location on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H. where my younger sister, Maura Murray, was last seen on February 9th, 2004.

Needless to say, Maura's disappearance forever changed the course of our own family's history. With no ashes to scatter or grave to visit, the location where she was last seen alive has naturally become a sacred place for our family. However, her disappearance has also had profound and reverberating effects on the state of New Hampshire; including its residents, its visitors, its public officials, and virtually all branches of N.H. state government and laws.

In 2005 our father, Fred Murray, met with Governor John Lynch and former Attorney General Kelly Ayotte to discuss Maura's disappearance. In 2006, the N.H. Supreme Court reviewed aspects of the case and established the "Murray Exemption" (Murray, 154 NH 579, 582), which set a new legal precedent in the state and is frequently cited in cases that comprise matters of public concern.

The significance of Maura's disappearance is apparent in the wide array of national and international media outlets that have covered the story, including ABC's *20/20*, Investigation Discovery's *Disappeared*, the Oxygen Channel's *The Disappearance of Maura Murray*, *The Montel Williams Show*, *Dr. Oz*, E! News, People, Daily Mail, New York Daily News, dozens of true crime podcasts, and numerous other media outlets. Her disappearance occurred the same week that Facebook launched and has been described as the first and most infamous unsolved mystery of the social media age. On a near weekly basis, Maura's disappearance is featured on a variety of both traditional and new media platforms.

As a result, the location where Maura was last seen on Route 112 in Haverhill is visited by thousands of people from all over the country and world each year (many of whom travel to N.H. to attend an annual vigil that is organized and hosted by residents of the state each February).

We strongly support Rep. DeSimone's request for a State Highway Historical Marker, and urge you to formally recognize the significance of this personally tragic yet unquestionably historic event that forever ties Maura to *The Granite State*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Murray', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julie Murray

The baffling circumstances that surround Maura's disappearance have attracted an enormous, international online following and her case has since become one of the most high-profile, well known missing persons cases in the country. Learn more at www.mauramurraymissing.org.

