

FREEDOM'SWAY

National Heritage Area | *Nature · Culture · History*

94 Jackson Road, Suite 311 Devens, MA 01434

June 13, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program

Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee

Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee

c/o Nashua River Watershed Association

592 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

The Freedom's Way Heritage Association was founded in 1994 as a nonprofit organization and is the local coordinating entity for the Freedom's way National Heritage Area, encompassing 45 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Our mission is to connect the people, places, and communities of the Heritage Area through preservation, conservation, and educational initiatives to protect and promote shared resources and to encourage residents and visitors to explore the region's landscape, history, and culture. As clearly articulated in our Management Plan, approved by the Secretary of the Interior in August of 2015, the Association recognizes river-related natural, historical, and cultural resources as integral to our landscape and our communities.

All eleven of the riverfront towns participating in the Nashua River Wild and Scenic Study are part of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, and we are heartened that they all voted so enthusiastically at their Town Meetings to accept the "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" and its recommendation to seek designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. From our experience with the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers, we know that the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model is an excellent opportunity for these towns.

We urge Congress to move swiftly to approve the formal designation and look forward to collaborating with the future Stewardship Council as our shared goals are pursued.

Sincerely,



Patrice Todisco
Executive Director



The Freedom's Way Heritage Association works in partnership with the National Park Service to support the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.