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Jamie Forsburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Forsburgh and Ms. Wallace,

I have the pleasure and honor of writing to you to support the federal **Wild and Scenic designation of the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers.**

The Stewardship Plan prepared for this designation is an exemplary, comprehensive and compelling document that not only describes the outstanding resource values and ecology of these rivers and adjacent resource areas – it reflects the equally extraordinary dedication and commitment of the eleven riverfront towns, the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), and the many participating organizations, agencies and citizens to preserve and manage these resources and areas for generations to come.

My support is based upon decades of public and private conservation work in Massachusetts and from my unique perspective of having managed the State Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Program for 15 years. In the latter capacity I managed the public review and designation of the Central Nashua (1996), Petapaweg (2002) and Squannacook ACECs (2002). As stated in the Stewardship Plan, these three contiguous ACECs together comprise 76,000 acres or 118 square miles (!) of the total existing ACECs throughout Massachusetts.

Nine of the eleven towns included in the proposed Wild and Scenic designation participated in an arduous and rigorous public ACEC nomination and designation process, with support from the NRWA and many others. (New Hampshire does not have a comparable program.) I witnessed the same high standard to describe and synthesize the exceptional quality of these resources, and the same exceptional dedication and commitment to work together for the present and future wellbeing of their communities.

I was delighted – and actually thrilled and excited – to review the Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values and Action Plan. The Stewardship Plan has taken an understanding of the resources and needed actions going forward to the next level – and then some. **The proposed Wild and Scenic designation is the outcome of decades of community effort and experience, and reflects a sophistication, dedication and maturity that is virtually unparalleled in our Commonwealth.** Federal designation will further reinforce and highlight State designation and recognition of these Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values. **These eleven communities, the NRWA, and countless supporting organizations and citizens will ensure that the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers will remain Wild and Scenic for generations to come.**

Most respectfully and sincerely,


Leslie Luchonok

Cc: Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell, Executive Director, NRWA