



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

June 18, 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:

As Governor of New Hampshire, I am energized by the efforts individuals and conservation groups have made in maintaining the NH quality of life by preserving its natural resources. Today, I offer my support for the proposed designation of the Nissitissit River, as a locally managed Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" will join the section of the Nissitissit flowing through NH with the Squannacook River, and parts of the Nashua River, both in Massachusetts. These rivers are an essential part of our region's culture, character, and history. All eleven towns participating in the Wild and Rivers designation study have voted at Town Meetings to accept the Stewardship Plan and its recommendation to seek designation.

The Nissitissit River was identified in 1967 by the NH Office of Planning and Research, as deserving of protection and was ranked 4th as a priority area by the State Planning Project Director. The agency report goes on to recommend, *"An attempt should be made to protect this river in a joint project with Massachusetts. On a small scale this would be comparable to some of the "Wild River" projects of the National Government....It is essential only that the stream be kept unpolluted and the shores undeveloped"*.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers model is well structured for New Hampshire, as it maintains our local governance while providing a common framework to work with other communities in protecting our shared natural resources. In New Hampshire, the Lamprey River has had 20 years of success after it was designated a Partnership Wild and Scenic River with legislation sponsored by US Rep. Bill Zeff, Sen. Bob Smith and Sen. Judd Gregg. A few years later my brother, then a US Representative John Sununu, introduced legislation to add an additional 12 miles of the river in the town of Epping. Today, I'm pleased to add my name to the list of communities, organizations, and individuals and offer my support for this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor