



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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June 21, 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,

During my sixteen years in the Massachusetts Legislature, first as a State Representative elected in 2002 and then as a State Senator beginning in 2009, I have familiarized myself with the extraordinary river related resources in the communities I serve and across the Commonwealth. I began following the work to explore possible Wild and Scenic designation of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit when the Nashua River Watershed Association first asked the towns in 2009 if they would be interested in requesting Congress to authorize a Study. Since then I have stayed in contact with the resultant Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee and attended and/or spoken at many of the Committee's public events. It was no surprise to me that the constituents in my communities of Ayer, Harvard, and Shirley voted unanimously at their Town Meetings to accept the "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" and its recommendation to seek Wild and Scenic designation.

One of the "Cultural & Historical" values highlighted in the Stewardship Plan is the story of the Nashua River clean-up. The Nashua, once one of the top ten most polluted rivers in the

country, was revitalized due to the efforts of internationally recognized Marion Stoddart working in concert with others in the 1960s. And she has continued her work to this day. Marion just celebrated her 90th birthday. I note that the National Park Service is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Program this year.

Congress has a stunning, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to designate these three deserving rivers as Wild and Scenic during the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Program and the 90th year of Marion Stoddart's impactful life. I urge Congress to move ahead quickly with the designation.

I am happy to answer any questions that Congressional staff may have as they review this project. I am completely in support of the designation and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



James B. Eldridge

State Senator

Middlesex and Worcester District
