

Berkshire County League of Sportsmen

25 Delancy Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-8482

Feb 09, 2009

Ian Bowles, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Ave
Boston MA 01201

Dear Secretary Bowles;

The Berkshire County League of Sportsmen represents over 3000 sportsmen and sportswomen from Williamstown to Sheffield. Our member organizations are some of the most dedicated environmentalists in the state. The Berkshire County League of Sportsmen (BCLS) has been in the forefront of many environmental causes over the last sixty eight years here in Massachusetts. The latest battle for us is the ACEC designation along the Upper Housatonic River. We ask you to support the ACEC nomination as it was submitted to you with no changes in the boundaries.

“What the problem of preservation boils down to is this, ducks can’t vote. Trees can’t vote. Neither can salmon, flowers, mountains or rivers. It is incumbent upon us as sportsmen, to take on the weighty responsibility to serve this as our greatest constituency.” This was from a speech that late Massachusetts Congressman Silvio O. Conte delivered to the attendees of the BCLS annual meeting in 1984, and it has become our mantra.

You have received a lot of material from organizations that support the ACEC nomination. We (BCLS) hope that you and your staff will see that Upper Housatonic River needs this ACEC designation to continue to heal and recover from years of commercial neglect. We also ask that you **reject** the EPA’s efforts to exempt itself and planned clean up from the ACEC. The BCLS asks you Mr. Secretary, to hold the EPA accountable to the people of Massachusetts and the residents along the river. The ACEC is an important tool to make sure that happens.

Respectfully submitted;

Mark P. Jester, President
Berkshire County League of Sportsmen