



## GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSATONIC RIVER WALK

September 4, 2008

Ian A Bowles, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

**RE: Support for ACEC designation for the Housatonic River**

Dear Secretary Bowles,

The Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk offers its enthusiastic support of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation for the proposed section of Housatonic River. This special area, which includes October Mountain State Forest, Mass Audubon Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary and several other public lands, has been thoroughly documented for its rare and endangered species, warm and cold water fisheries, and diverse wildlife. It is cherished by the Berkshire community for its recreational opportunities, which include boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, and for its vast inventory of cultural, scenic and historic resources.

That it qualifies for such a designation is surely unquestioned. Equally significant is that an ACEC designation will ensure an informed public voice in the challenging process of PCB remediation planning and subsequent restoration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fletcher  
Director