



August 26, 2008

Ian A. Bowles
Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RE: Housatonic River Area of Critical Environmental Concern Nomination

Dear Secretary Bowles;

On behalf of the Housatonic Valley Association, I am very pleased to offer our full support to the nomination of the section of Housatonic River as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). We feel strongly that this unique area qualifies for this distinction and offers the citizens of the Commonwealth an important level of protection for this significant environmental, cultural and historic resource.

We are pleased to see that communities are beginning to recognize the Housatonic Watershed as a positive community resource rather than the dumping grounds that it once was, and are incorporating the river resource in their community revitalization efforts. This ACEC designation will provide recognition of this unique resource which will assist the local communities in their stewardship efforts to protect this area for this and future generations. Therefore, we urge your acceptance of this important nomination.

Sincerely,

Dennis Regan
Berkshire Program Director

