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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2105

November 1, 2012

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The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am writing to respectfully request reconnaissance study assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) related to the Nashua River in Massachusetts for the potential study as a candidate for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River.

As you are aware, I have filed legislation in the House of Representatives entitled the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Act. This legislation, numbered H.R. 5319, would authorize the NPS to conduct a full Wild and Scenic River Study of the mainstem Nashua River and its tributaries in Massachusetts. I appreciate your Department's support for my legislation, and for the testimony delivered by Mr. Victor Knox before the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The history and development of the towns and cities in the 5th District of Massachusetts has been defined by the many rivers that course through these unique communities—including the Nashua River. Beginning in the 1700s and continuing to just a few decades ago, paper, shoe, and textile factories were constructed along the Nashua River and many other rivers in the area. The currents of these rivers powered the factories that were responsible for the birth of the Industrial Revolution in America.

But at the same time, the factories were releasing industrial waste right back into the river, polluting the very source of their success. By the 1960s the Nashua was one of the most polluted rivers in the nation. But thanks to the vision of Groton, MA resident Marion Stoddart and the dedication of volunteers from communities along the river, the Nashua River has made a remarkable recovery.

However, there is still much to be done to protect the river and ensure that it remains a great place for canoeing, fishing, and enjoying the great outdoors. That is why I introduced H.R. 5319, and why I support implementation of a reconnaissance study and the eventual designation of the river as Wild and Scenic. My legislation was developed in concert with the Nashua River Watershed Association, and has received the support of each town through which the Nashua River flows.

While I am confident that H.R. 5319 will soon be passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, I am eager to advance the consideration of the Nashua River and its outstanding natural, cultural and recreational resources in a manner that will maximize the benefit of the Wild and Scenic River Study, once authorized. For this reason, I request the assistance of the NPS in beginning a reconnaissance study of the Nashua River and its tributaries.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Derek Torrey on my staff should you have any additional questions or require further information. Derek can be reached by phone at (202) 225-3411 or by email at Derek.Torrey@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress