



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**THE GENERAL COURT**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

September 22, 2011

Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114-2104

Dear Commissioner Lambert,

We are writing to offer our strong support of the proposed collaboration between Squannacook Greenways and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to develop and construct the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT). The SRRT is planned to be built along the partially abandoned Greenville branch of the former Boston & Maine R.R. that begins in Ayer very close to the beginning of the Nashua River Rail Trail, and continues through the towns of Ayer, Groton, and Townsend before entering New Hampshire.

We understand that you have met with members of Squannacook Greenways about this project and we are urging DCR to move forward on this mutually beneficial collaboration. All members of Squannacook Greenways have been working on this proposed rail trail since 2002. In our many interactions with Squannacook Greenways and the Nashua River Watershed Association, we have experienced their determination and motivation to begin work on this project and to maintain the trail in the future.

As you are aware, Squannacook Greenways has a vision of the best way to build this rail trail. This vision was inspired by the success of Wachusett Greenways, a non-profit that has successfully built and maintained the stone dust Mass Central Rail Trail. Squannacook Greenways has strong ties with Wachusett Greenways and have already won a DCR trails grant for \$20K and completed an environmental and engineering study. Also Squannacook Greenways will maintain requisite liability/indemnification insurance.

We strongly believe that the type of partnership proposed here is a unique and productive way to realize a significant recreational asset to our communities at a time of diminishing fiscal resources. We welcome a meeting with you to discuss the benefits of this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer L. Flanagan in black ink.

Jennifer L. Flanagan  
State Senator  
Worcester & Middlesex District

Handwritten signature of Eileen M. Donoghue in black ink.

Eileen M. Donoghue  
State Senator  
1st Middlesex District

Handwritten signature of Sheila C. Harrington in black ink.

Sheila C. Harrington  
State Representative  
1st Middlesex District