The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB336, designating segments of the Mascoma River as a protected river

Dear Chairman Renzullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 336, which would designate segments of the Mascoma Rivers as a protected river pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, RSA 483 (RMPP). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of segments of the Mascoma River as a protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the nomination document submitted to DES in June 2010. Our conclusions are summarized in my report to the General Court dated January, 2011 (copy attached) which recommends that "*The General Court should adopt legislation that designates the Mascoma River for inclusion in the Rivers Management and Protection Program and designates the Mascoma River.....*" In developing this recommendation, DES considered: the nomination package submitted by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Mascoma River Nomination Committee; public comment; and the recommendation for RMPP designation by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee as submitted to me by letter dated September 30, 2010 (copy attached) from Dr. Kenneth Kimball, Committee Chair. Our detailed evaluation is presented in the attached report, The Mascoma River, A Report to the General Court (January, 2011).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator at 271-8801, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Michael Walls, Ass't. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures
TSB/pmc

cc: Senator Matthew S. Houde
Representative Laurie Harding
Representative L. Mike Kappler
Representative Franklin F. Gould
Representative Charles L. Townsend
RMAC Members (via email)
Shawn Donovan, Mascoma River Nomination Committee (via email)
Rachel Ruppel, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (via email)
Barbara Skuly, Chair, Ashuelot River LAC (via email)
Rick Healey, Chair, Cocheco River LAC (via email)
Theresa Darling, Business Manager, CRJC (via email)
Don Clement, Chair, Exeter River LAC (via email)
Sarah Callaghan, Chair, Lamprey River LAC (via email)
Max Stamp, Chair, Pemigewasset River LAC (via email)
George May, Chair, Souhegan River LAC (via email)
Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Upper Merrimack LAC (via email)
Charlie Ryan, Chair, Ammonoosuc River LAC (via email)
Jenny Polcari, Co-Chair, Cold River LAC (via email)
Michelle Hamm, Chair Contoocook River LAC (via email)
Liz Evans, Chair, Isinglass River LAC (via email)
Bob Robbins, Chair, Lower Merrimack River LAC (via email)
Dick Ludders, Chair, Piscataquog River LAC (via email)
Robert Parrish, Chair, Swift River LAC (via email)

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