



The Rhode Island Rivers Council
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
c/o RI Water Resources Board
235 Promenade Street, Suite 394
Providence, RI 02908



February 7, 2011

Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Blackstone River Valley National Park

Dear Senator Reed:

The RI Rivers Council (RIRC) was created by the RI General Assembly to coordinate, oversee, and review efforts to improve and preserve the quality of the state's rivers and their watersheds and to develop plans to increase river use. The RIRC is charged with coordinating state policies to protect rivers and watersheds and strengthening local watershed councils as partners in river and watershed protection. RIRC designation provides local watershed councils legal standing and eligibility to receive state grants from the RIRC.

The RIRC is aware of the fine work done by the National Park Service since 1986 to steward the development of the Senator John Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The RIRC is also aware that the National Park Service is conducting a special resource study to assist the Congress in determining the future status of the corridor. *The RIRC requests that Congress create a national park that includes village areas in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island as well as the Blackstone River itself.* The RIRC also advocates that new national park legislation include having the park work together with a strong, community-based, regional nonprofit organization to guide and partially conduct park activities.

The RIRC also encourages Congress to provide for interim arrangements and funding in federal fiscal year 2012 to make the transition from a national corridor to a national park as smooth as possible so that positive momentum of existing partnerships may continue. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Guy N. Lefebvre

Guy N. Lefebvre
Chair

cc: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc.



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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
c/o RI Water Resources Board
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February 7, 2011

Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Blackstone River Valley National Park

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

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February 7, 2011

Honorable David Cicilline
United States House of Representatives
Rhode Island District 1
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Blackstone River Valley National Park

Dear Representative Cicilline:

The RI Rivers Council (RIRC) was created by the RI General Assembly to coordinate, oversee, and review efforts to improve and preserve the quality of the state's rivers and their watersheds and to develop plans to increase river use. The RIRC is charged with coordinating state policies to protect rivers and watersheds and strengthening local watershed councils as partners in river and watershed protection. RIRC designation provides local watershed councils legal standing and eligibility to receive state grants from the RIRC.

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