



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 10, 2021

Ms. Veronica M. Berounsky, Ph.D.
Chairperson
The Rhode Island Rivers Council
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Veronica:

Nothing of real value gets accomplished except by and through partnerships. It gives me great pleasure to recognize one of the Department of Environmental Management's true partners – and one of our state's most effective ecological advocates – The Rhode Island Rivers Council, on your 30th anniversary.

From coordinating a bottom-up, grassroots approach to fostering local involvement and engagement, to designating 10 watershed councils – each a powerhouse in its own right – encompassing more than 70% of the state, to advising state agencies and municipalities about programs and measures to protect and improve river quality, the RIRC just might be in its own category as a change agent and protector of water quality in Rhode Island. Since RIRC's creation by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1991, the council and its constituent local councils have raised awareness of the crucial role of watersheds, that every Rhode Islander lives in a watershed and has a connection to the water bodies that surround us, and that keeping our rivers and streams clean also keeps our bay and coastal waters clean. Your role in fostering actions to both restore and protect our riverine resources is highly valued and important to the progress we collectively have made toward clean water goals.

DEM celebrates your anniversary, salutes your effectiveness, and looks forward to many more years of fruitful partnership working to protect our most precious natural resource: our water. Congratulations!

Warm Regards,

Janet Coit
Director