

September 29, 2010

Mr. Richard Sullivan, Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114-2104

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support of the towns of Groton and Townsend in their combined efforts to complete the Squannacook River Trail Project. This wonderful project began in early 2005 and its completion will enhance border communities and provide a healthy environmental link for so many of our citizens.

I am respectfully asking for assistance from you and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's legal team to negotiate the lease with the MBTA that is critical to advance this project. The towns of Groton and Townsend have overcome many challenges but really need the guidance and expertise that DCR could provide. With your assistance, once the lease agreement is completed, these communities have a viable plan to construct and most important, to maintain the trail along the lines of what the Wachusett Greenways group has done on the Central Mass Rail Trail. This worthy partnership is especially important as we continue to experience fiscal challenges.

It is my sincere hope that under your guidance the Department of Conservation and Recreation will do everything in its power to assist Groton and Townsend in their efforts to complete the Squannacook River Trail Project. If there is any way I can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me .

Respectfully,

Jennifer L. Flanagan
State Senator/ Worcester&Middlesex