

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

January 18, 2013

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

Ms. Shana Stewart Deeds
Study Coordinator
Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study
2839 Vermont Route 105
East Berkshire, VT 05447

Mr. Jamie Fosburgh
New England Team Leader
Northeast Region Rivers Program
National Park Service
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Ms. Deeds and Mr. Fosburgh:

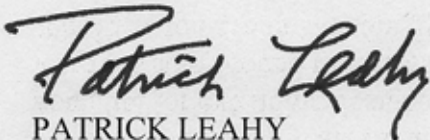
I understand the importance of conserving areas in Vermont with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational value – areas like the Upper Missisquoi River. This is why, in response to requests from surrounding towns, I introduced the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2007.

I commend you and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study Committee for more than three years of hard work creating the Management Plan and evaluating the potential for extending designation to the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. I am pleased to learn the study found the rivers' swimming holes, wildlife viewing, and fishing, among other activities, to have outstandingly remarkable value and to therefore be eligible for designation.

The emphasis that you have placed on public participation, including bringing your final recommendations before the town meetings in March, is commendable. While I appreciate the significance of the Wild and Scenic designation, the ultimate decision must be made by the local communities. Federal involvement should be limited, as control of the land will remain in the hands of landowners and management of any designation funds will be overseen by a local advisory committee.

Thank you for the thoughtful effort that went into the Upper Missisquoi and Trout River study. Designating our rivers as Wild and Scenic can be a large step in the process of protecting our water resources and natural environment, as well as growing Vermont's tourism economy.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
U.S. Senator