

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Udall, and Ranking Member Joyce:

As supporters of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program, we write to respectfully request that any anticipated conference agreement for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) reflect both Senate- and House-passed bills by including increased funding for the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program within the final Operations of the Park System account.

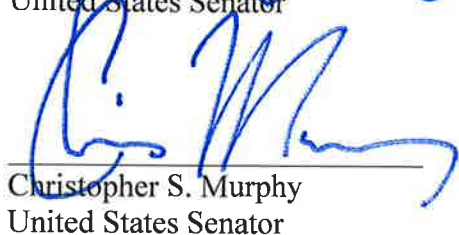
The program currently protects 16 nationally-significant rivers and watersheds that flow through privately-owned or state-owned lands within the United States by preserving them in a natural, free-flowing condition. The program, which is unique in engaging private interests and all levels of government in studying, planning, and managing the rivers for the benefit of future generations, includes the Eightmile River (CT), Farmington River (CT), Great Egg Harbor River (NJ), Lamprey River (NH), Lower Delaware River (NJ/PA), Maurice River (NJ), Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (VT), Musconetcong River (NJ), Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers (MA), Taunton River (MA), Wekiva River (FL), Westfield River (MA), and White Clay Creek (DE/PA); and the newly-designated Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook (CT), Nashua River (MA/NH), and Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers (RI/CT).

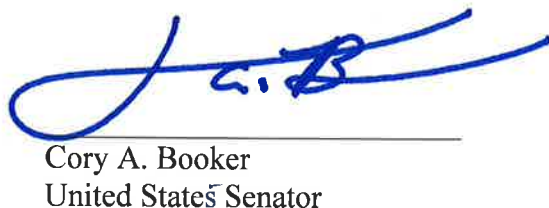
Three new Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers were designated this year by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, making it vitally important that this growing program receive an increase in funding to provide for these new rivers. Specifically, the Senate-passed funding level of \$3.576 million ensures that these new rivers receive necessary startup funding while providing for the continued effective and efficient implementation of the approved conservation plans of the previously designated rivers.

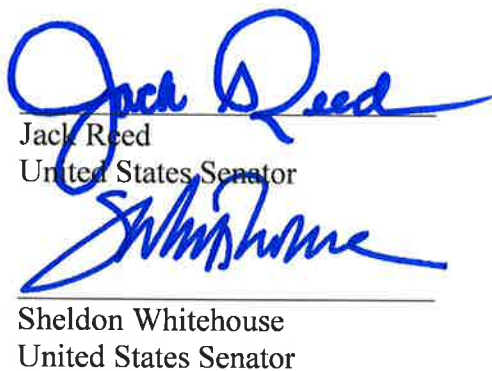
We strongly urge you to include \$3.576 million for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program in the final conference agreement. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

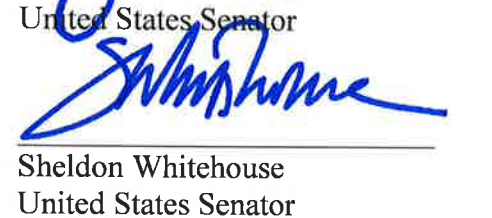
Sincerely,


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator

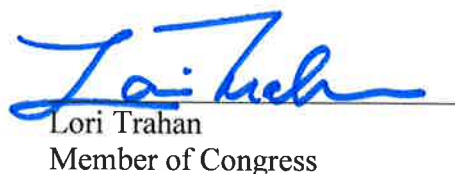

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

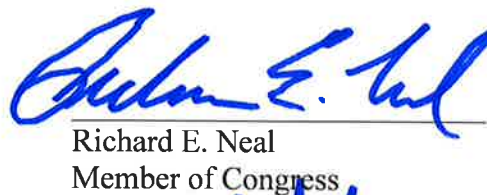

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

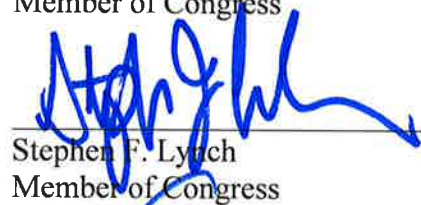

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

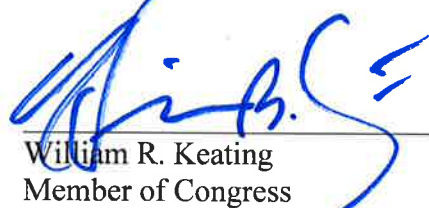

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress


Lori Trahan
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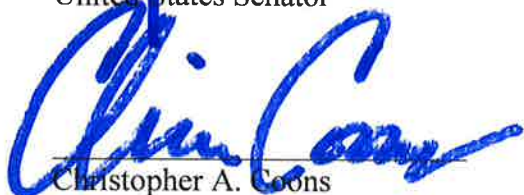

Stephen F. Lynch
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William R. Keating
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



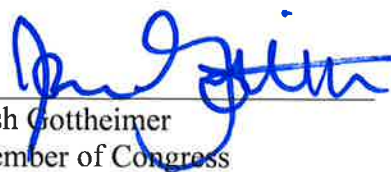
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Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



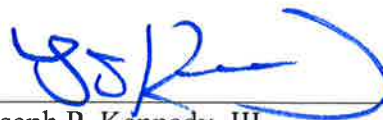
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Andy Kim
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Member of Congress



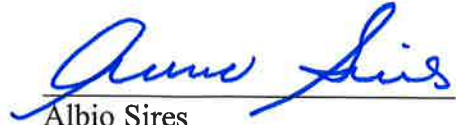
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
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David N. Cicilline
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Albio Sires
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