

Taunton Wild and Scenic River Study  
Draft Report and Environmental Assessment

Tabular Summary of Public Response

October, 2007

**Table I. Direct Correspondence in Support of Designation**

Commenter	Summary	Notes
Kathleen Botelko, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Enjoys birding & wildlife on river; notes herring run
Town of Berkley, Historical Commission	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Notes historical significance of river in Berkley
Elizabeth Elsner, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Worried about development threats
Ann Marie LeConte, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Riverfront landowner; enjoys wildlife viewing, natural beauty of river; learned to fish on river
Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Taunton, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Reiterates major study findings re significance; cites support of its members and local communities
Ann Marie Dufresne, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Cites family visits to Kennedy Park in Fall R; Peregrine Falcons nesting on bluffs above river
Althea Brady, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites many attributes of Assonet River and Assonet Bay as part of Taunton estuary & watershed ecology
Nancy Durfee, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Cites family connections to river; wildlife viewing; swimming; fishing; recreation; history

Priscilla Chapman (MA Audubon) & Susan Speers (Taunton River Watershed Campaign)	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Lengthy support letter for Wild and Scenic Designation and Study Process/Products. The Campaign represents: Environmental League of Massachusetts; Mass Audubon; The Nature Conservancy; Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay; Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District; Trustees of Reservations; Taunton River Watershed Alliance; Trust For Public Land; The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA; Jones River Watershed Assoc.
Joseph Callaghan, Berkley, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Wishes there were more credit in Draft Report for the past efforts of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Cathy Ann Viveiros, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites hopes for future riverfront of Fall River (redevelopment) re maximize Taunton River as natural & recreational asset
Ronald M. Thomas, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Cites use of Heritage Park and viewing of sunsets over river
Roger & Virginia Hood, Somerset, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation in lower river	Riverfront landowner. Cites extensive history of river; extensive personal and family use; includes sunset photo taken from home.

Town of Somerset, Conservation Commission	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Applauds study conduct and findings. Cites ongoing efforts to improve and restore lower Taunton in Somerset/Fall River
Helena F. Rocha, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lifelong resident of Fall River & Somerset (since 1926). Laments past abuses of river, supports restoration & protection.
Robert LeComte, Jr., Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites special memory of canoe camping w/ son on Taunton. Also has watched the river come back to life in Somerset through regulatory restoration efforts.
Brian Pane, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites personal enjoyment of river. Uniqueness of opportunity.
Mark Ravinski, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Lives on Assonet Bay. Cites wildlife values, Bald Eagles, turtles, herons.
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Norman, Somerset, MA	Support Alt B (Full Designation)	Lifelong residents of Somerset. Enjoy paddling on river, wildlife, scenic beauty. Now are introducing grand-children to river.
Mark Douglas-Dobson, Berkley, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites unique system of undammed river and all the values that supports.
Joseph F. Carvelho, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lifelong resident of Fall River (60 years). Cites childhood memories on river. Historical and current river values for wildlife, inspiration, recreation.

Dr. Heidi Douglas, The Organic Mom, N. Dighton, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites recent overnight canoe trip on Upper Taunton and “wilderness” fell so close to home. Amazed by wildlife and scenic beauty.
Marian LeComte, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites childhood memories from Pierce Beach on Taunton in Somerset. Has watched decline of river and more recently its restoration. Wants to make sure restoration and protection is further pursued.
Evey Douglas-Dobson, Berkley, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Age 5. loves watching wildlife on river.
Jack Douglas-Dobson, Berkley, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Age 7. Walks to river, plays w/ rocks and explores. Enjoys wildlife.
Margaret Soroka, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lifelong resident 1 block from river (60 yrs). Learned to waterski on a homemade board on Taunton as a child. Enjoys wildlife. Notes how much recreational use there is now.
Paul Ziobro, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Heard about comment period in Fall River Herald News. Cites many years of sailing out of Heritage Park in Fall River.
Leslie Schroeder, MD, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives walking distance from Taunton R. Loves river. Family donated conservation easement to protect tributary on their property.

Town of Berkley, Board of Selectmen	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites river as “treasure” for Berkley citizens. Urges enactment of congressional legislation.
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Masson, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Live on Taunton River. Enjoy recreation. Have witnessed re-birth of lower river. Support continued efforts to restore and protect.
Virginia Hood, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites 81 years in Somerset. Cites many experiences, including swimming, finding Indian artifacts on beaches, ice fishing, skating. Family has lived on river for generations.
Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay, Providence, RI	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites Narragansett Bay estuary of national significance, Taunton as critical to its health and future. Commends Draft Report and its findings.
Cecile A. Michno, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives adjacent to river near Dighton line. Enjoys river on regular basis.
Peter B. Denison, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites extensive canoeing and kayaking of river. Favorite trip in Somerset and into the Assonet. Wants restoration of lower river to continue.
George and Anne Kachajian, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Have watched re-birth of lower river over last 40 years, want to continue and support that effort.
Mass Audubon, Boston, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites support of its membership. Includes

		testimony submitted in support of S. 868 with detailed support for Draft Report and its findings.
Kickemuit River Council, Warren, RI	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Kickemuit is tributary to Mt. Hope Bay. Health of Bay directly related to health of Taunton River. Supports restoration efforts.
Anne Teahan Dunning, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Husband's business is on Assonet Bay – enjoys river views of nature and wildlife.
The Nature Conservancy, Boston, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites Taunton R. biodiversity, and link to unique free-flowing condition.
Madonna Soctomah, Pleasant Point, Perry, ME	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	
Franklin and Paulette Perry, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lifelong resident (61 yrs). Cites many lifelong experiences on river, now sharing w/ grandchildren.
Cecile Scofield, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Grew up on river. Extensive boating (motor boat) – loves trips up the river as a “trip back in time”
John L. Pontes, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives near river. Enjoys watching wildlife and recreating on river w/ family and grandchildren.
R.J. & Carolyn Wills, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cite extensive personal recreation on river, including watching herring run, bird watching, visiting boardwalk, Battleship Cove. Cites historical significance.

John A. Freeman, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lifelong resident, supports continued restoration and protection efforts.
Jeff Carpenter, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives near river. Bikes along shoreline.
Pat Gormally, Swansea, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Cites family use for fishing, kayaking, and sailing. Importance of preserving natural river system.
Marilyn Sokoll, (No Address)	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives near river for 50 years. Cites natural beauty.
Alicia Walker, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Loves watching wildlife on river and sunsets.
Marion DeCosta, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	
Noreen Cotter, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	
Dorothy Davis, Somerset, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	
James Cahill, Jr, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Associated with “Friends of Heritage State Park” in Fall River.
Mrs. Carol A. Russell, Swansea, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	
George Banville (No Address)	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Kayaker and biker on river. Enjoys wildlife viewing (included photo taken from kayak)
Margaret Charkowski, Fall River, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Life long resident of Fall R. Cites extensive family use and enjoyment of river. Wants wildlife and scenic beauty protected.

Stephen R. Pritchard,  
Secretary, Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts Executive  
Office of Environmental  
Affairs

Supports Alt. B (Full  
Designation)

(Re-send of letter dated  
8/11/2005). Supports  
Stewardship Plan and  
Designation of entire river  
as Wild and Scenic.  
Commends State-NPS  
partnership, cites local  
support and success of other  
MA Wild and Scenic  
Rivers.

**Table II. Comments in Support of Designation Received Through PEPC  
System**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Sean O’Conner, Tiverton, RI	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Cites historical values
James E. Byers, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Cites biodiversity, habitat, history and natural beauty
Brian Levesque, Fall River, MA	Supports protection of the Taunton River	Cites great things happening re Fall River waterfront, parks, boardwalk
Requested Privacy – individual, Easthampton, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	
Requested Privacy – individual, Cambridge, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	
Anne Louise Van Nostrand, Boston, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	
Barney Frank, Patrick J. Kennedy, James P. McGovern, Members of Congress	Support Alt B (Full Designation).	Request NPS support for HR 415. Cite local support for designation; opposition to LNG

Curtis R. Hoffman, Massachusetts Archaeological Society	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Cites importance of Taunton River archaeology. Society votes unanimously on 9/8/07 to support designation.
Gary A. Martin, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Riverfront landowner on Assonet Bay. Cites wildlife viewing, sunsets
Requested Privacy – individual, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Lives near river. Enjoys wildlife, natural beauty
Helen Gedraitis, Freetown, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Cites need for conservation. Recreational opportunities, native American traditions, education in the schools re Taunton River.
Requested Privacy, individual, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Moved to the area for its peaceful beauty. Enjoys wildlife, tranquility of river.
Requested Privacy – Individual, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt. B (Full Designation)	Lives near river. Enjoys wildlife, stillness of nature, habitat values
Suzanne Ashley, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Lives on Assonet Bay. Cites fishing, kayaking, exploring river.
Dawn Bradway, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Cites fear of development and its impacts
Todd Heimer, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Worried about development impacts in Freetown/Assonet
Requested Privacy – individual, Assonet, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Lives and works on river. Fishes, swims, canoes on river.
Requested Privacy – individual, Assonet, MA	Supports protection of Taunton and Assonet R.	Recreates on the rivers.

Carl Brodeur, Freetown, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Has been involved in study on Northern Diamondback Terrapin turtle in Taunton watershed. Notes other important T&E species habitat and local efforts to improve/protect the rivers.
Douglas Robinson, Mashpee, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Recreates on Taunton (kayaking). Cites importance of river's history, herring run.
Louis Bousquet, Raynham, MA	Supports Alt B (Full Designation)	Member of Wild and Scenic Study Committee. Cites extensive study process and local community support.
Bruce D. White, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic designation	Cites extensive canoeing of Taunton and Assonet Rivers. Family has donated riverfront land for a town park.
Requested Privacy – individual, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	
Requested Privacy – Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation	Has lived along Assonet for 28 years. Cites wildlife habitat values, recreational opportunities, history, scenic beauty.
Anne Morse, Assonet, MA	Supports Wild and Scenic Designation for Taunton and Assonet Rivers.	Lives on the Assonet River. Cites recreation and scenic beauty.

**Table III. Comments Opposed to Designation**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weaver's Cove Energy, Fall River, MA	Oppose Wild and Scenic Designation	Extensive comments in opposition to study findings and Wild and Scenic Designation. Three ring binder with addendices. Photographs of all man-made intrusions to natural riverfront.