



## **Dannel P. Malloy**

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

November 16, 2016

The Honorable Sally M. Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
U. S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Application for National Designation as a State Designated Unit pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 for the Housatonic River from the Massachusetts – Connecticut Border to Boardman Bridge, New Milford, Connecticut.

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I write to seek National Designation as a State Designated Unit pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (the Act) for the segment of the Housatonic River from the Connecticut – Massachusetts border to the Boardman Bridge in New Milford, Connecticut (the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch). I am requesting, and I believe that the attached materials support, designation of this stretch of the Housatonic as Scenic and Recreational.

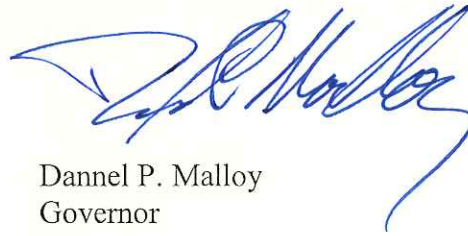
Your Department completed a study of the Housatonic River in 1979 and concluded that the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch “meets the eligibility criteria and thus qualifies as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.” That study also stated that “...protection is contingent upon completion of an acceptable management plan through local action.” The study also recommended at that time that the Governor file an application under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Act.

The affected municipalities in 1979 did not pursue National Designation but did join together to establish the Housatonic River Commission. In 1981, the Housatonic River Commission completed the Management Plan for the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch (the Plan). The Plan was revised in 2006 to enhance protection of the river. In addition, Connecticut has since 1979 passed several statutes that protect rivers, water resources, and river habitat.

The seven municipalities represented on the Housatonic River Commission requested in 2016 that the Connecticut General Assembly pass legislation authorizing me to apply for National Designation as a State Designated Unit for the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch. The General Assembly passed, and I signed, Public Act 16-38, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN AREAS OF THE HOUSATONIC RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER, in May 2016. That legislation and other materials in support of this application are attached and are listed in the attached Appendix A.

I believe that the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch continues to qualify as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Designation as Scenic and Recreational will better protect and preserve this natural jewel for future generations. Therefore, I request that you consider this application favorably and designate the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch as Scenic and Recreational pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. P. Malloy", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

## APPENDIX A

Materials in Support of Application for Designation of the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch Pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (submitted electronically)

1. Public Act 16-38, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN AREAS OF THE HOUSATONIC RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.
2. Studies and Reports
  - a. "The Housatonic in Connecticut – A Wild and Scenic River Study," U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Final Report (August 1979)
  - b. U.S. General Accounting Office, Wild and Scenic Rivers (GAO/RCED-87-39) (December 1986) (excerpt pp. 67-78)
3. Map of Wild and Scenic Designations Requested
4. Administration of Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch
  - a. Draft Memorandum of Understanding Draft
  - b. Housatonic River Commission Rules of Procedure
  - c. Management Plan for the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic Stretch
  - d. Draft Coordinating Committee By-laws
5. State and Local Laws and Regulations Protecting River
  - a. Connecticut General Statutes – Sections 22a-1, 22a-6e, and 26-3
  - b. Municipal Zoning Regulations
6. Letters of Support from Municipalities Affected
7. Letter of Support from Connecticut Congressional Delegation (Sen. Blumenthal; Sen. Murphy, Congresswoman Esty).