FEB 0 6 2017

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2016, to Secretary Jewell, requesting the designation of the Housatonic River from the Massachusetts – Connecticut border to Boardman Bridge, New Milford, Connecticut, as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542).

The National Park Service will be responsible for processing your application. The proposal will be assigned to the Northeast Regional Director. Jamie Fosburgh, New England Team Leader for the Rivers Program, will contact the Housatonic River Commission, Northwest Regional Council of Governments, and CT DEEP staff integral to the designation proposal as a first step in the review process.

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the river's current eligibility, long-term suitability for designation, and appropriate classification under the terms of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The work that Connecticut and the affected communities have performed since the Housatonic was first studied for inclusion in the system in 1979, including the creation of the Housatonic River Commission and Plan in 1981, the revision of the management plan in 2006, and the passage of various statutes including the 2016 law to establish the Housatonic as a State designated Wild and Scenic River provide a strong record for our review.

We appreciate your interest in helping to preserve our Nation's rivers, and look forward to working with you in this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact Jamie Fosburgh at any time for information or updates. Jamie Fosburgh, Northeast Regional Rivers Program, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, email Jamie_fosburgh@nps.gov or telephone 617-223-5191.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Reynolds
Acting Director