

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and  
and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy  
Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferees:

During conference committee consideration of the energy policy bill, we strongly urge you to support legislative language that was included in the Senate version of the bill (S. 2012, the *Energy Policy & Modernization Act of 2012*) to designate the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as part of the Wild and Scenic River System.

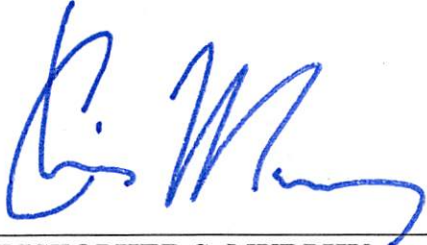
The inclusion of this language in the conference report would be the culmination of an incredible local effort and would help protect one of Connecticut's most vital natural resources. The journey to obtain the Wild and Scenic River designation began over a decade ago, when local residents in the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor, Connecticut, came together to form a unique partnership to protect the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. In our estimation, the bill, *The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Act*, perfectly embodies what Congress should be doing: listening to the needs of local residents and supporting their work. It is also based on a model that has worked elsewhere in the state. The upper 14-mile portion of the Farmington River was designated as Wild & Scenic in 1994. This legislation would simply extend the designation to include the lower portion of the river.

We also worked very closely with the U.S. Park Service, which has fully endorsed the bill, and a dam operator along the river to craft an amendment that ensures the interests of all stakeholders—including the towns and the companies that own property along the river—are fully taken into account. Further, the bill passed unanimously out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and passed unanimously as an amendment to S.2012 during its consideration on the Senate floor.

There is an amazing ecological, recreational, and historic story to tell about this stretch of river. It is our hope that, with your help, that story can continue to be told for generations, and that the community-driven work that's been done can finally be endorsed this year through a federal designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to working closely with you.

Sincerely,



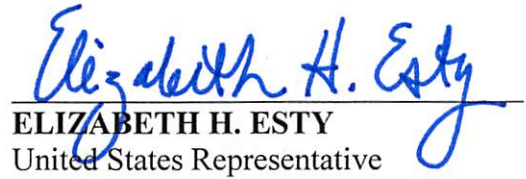
**CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**  
United States Senator



**RICHARD BLUMENTHAL**  
United States Senator



**JOHN LARSON**  
United States Representative



**ELIZABETH H. ESTY**  
United States Representative