

November 26, 2001

Robert Durand, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Proposed Scope, 2000 L. G. Hanscom Field Environmental Status & Planning Report
EOEA Number 5484/8696**

Dear Secretary Durand:

The Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers were designated Wild and Scenic Rivers because of their nationally significant resource values. The River Conservation Plan, which was adopted by the designation legislation passed by Congress, established a River Stewardship Council to "Conserve and enhance the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers' wildlife habitat, scenery, recreational resources, historic and archaeological resources, and literary values for the benefit of present and future generations." The Council consists of representatives from the Towns of Bedford, Billerica, Carlisle, Concord, Framingham, Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland and from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Organization for the Assabet River, and soon, we hope, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Boating on the Concord River near the Old North Bridge and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is a significant national recreational resource. Air traffic noise from Hanscom Field already diminishes the tranquility of river outings. Any additional air traffic noise would further degrade the resource. The Council writes to request that the Environmental Status and Planning Report carefully consider the impact of any increased air traffic on the recreational and historic values of the Concord River.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

John Drobinski
Chair