

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**SENATOR RICHARD T. MOORE**  
WORCESTER & NORFOLK DISTRICT

ROOM 111

TEL: (617) 722-1420

FAX: (617) 722-1944

[richard.moore@masenate.gov](mailto:richard.moore@masenate.gov)

[www.senatormoore.com](http://www.senatormoore.com)

[www.facebook.com/senatormoore](http://www.facebook.com/senatormoore)

[www.twitter.com/SenDickMoore](http://www.twitter.com/SenDickMoore)

CHAIRMAN:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE FINANCING

VICE CHAIRMAN:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING & POLICY

COMMITTEES ON:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

BILLS IN THIRD READING

PUBLIC SERVICE

TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

June 6, 2011

Mr. Fred Ayer, Director  
Low Impact Hydropower Institute  
34 Providence St.  
Portland, ME 04103

Dear Mr. Ayer:

I am pleased to offer commentary on the application submitted by West Dudley Hydro, LCC for Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Certification of its West Dudley Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 7254) on the Quinebaug River in Dudley, Massachusetts.

In 2004, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts purchased the Southbridge Spur from the Worcester & Providence Railroad for the purpose of developing a recreational trail, now known as the Quinebaug River Valley Trail, connecting the communities of Southbridge and West Dudley with the intent of encouraging tourism, promoting healthy lifestyles, providing alternative modes of transportation and preserving the local character and heritage. I have since partnered with many groups and individuals on the local, state and federal level, including the Dudley Trail & Greenway Network, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and National Park Service, to make this project a reality. I am pleased to report that, to date, a two mile portion of the trail has been opened for recreational use, equipped with a parking area off the trail. Most recently, the Town of Dudley has planned to construct an eight-car trailhead parking area approximately 50 to 60 feet from West Dudley Road.

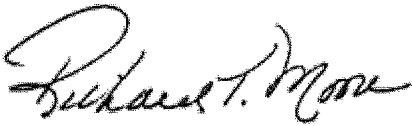
One additional component of the Quinebaug River Valley Trail project includes the creation of a kayak and canoe trail that will connect the rail trail with Connecticut's River Kayak and Canoe Trail. Abutting this route is the site of the proposed West Dudley Hydroelectric Project. When constructed, the facility could provide a significant recreational enhancement to this portion of the trail. For one, the facility's surrounding area could be utilized as a portage point for access to West Dudley Pond, providing

through paddlers with 12 extra scenic miles of river to canoe or kayak from Southbridge to West Thompson Lake.

In order for this enhancement to come to fruition, an accommodation on the part of the facility owner would be required, namely granting public access to the surrounding area. In reviewing West Dudley Hydro, LCC's fulfillment of the recreation criteria for LIHI certification, I would respectfully request your consideration of this cooperation when granting approval. This is not only in the interest of the overall Quinebaug River Valley Trail project but also those benefactors who will take advantage of this recreational area for years to come.

To that end, I submit this commentary without objection to the West Dudley Hydroelectric Project receiving LIHI Certification. Committed to the completion of the Quinebaug River Valley Trail, however, I respectfully request your consideration of future cooperation between West Dudley Hydro, LCC and the Dudley Trail and Greenway Network in order to enhance this important project while preserving the region environmentally and for recreational activity for years to come. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office.

Sincerely,



**RICHARD T. MOORE**

State Senator

Worcester & Norfolk District

CC: Mr. Ken Butkiewicz, Dudley Trail and Greenway Network  
Mr. Peter Jankowski, Dudley Town Administrator  
Mr. Russ Cohen, Riverways Program, Division of Ecological Restoration  
Mr. Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley  
Mr. John Monroe, National Park Service