



Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter

100 Dube Drive East Bridgewater, MA 92333

April 28, 2011

Brendan Annett
The Coalition for Buzzards Bay
114 Front Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Support of the removal of the Hathaway Pond Dam, Sippican River, Rochester, MA.

Dear Mr. Annett,

The Board of Directors of the Southeastern MA Chapter of Trout Unlimited has voted unanimously to support the Coalition for Buzzards Bay's plan to remove the Hathaway Pond Dam on the Sippican River. Removing this dam is the most practical way to insure the public's safety and restore diadromous fish passage to the Sippican River.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited has provided funds and thousands of volunteer hours for the restoration of Red Brook, a sea-run brook trout (salter) stream located in the towns of Wareham, Plymouth and Buzzards Bay. The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of TU has also been an advocate and supporter of stream restoration and watershed protection throughout our region.

Trout Unlimited's interest in the Sippican River stems in part from the Sippican's past reputation as one of the state's better sea-run brook trout streams. While sea-run brook trout appear to have been extirpated from the Sippican by the creation of impoundments and the degraded water quality that they have caused, occasional reports of brook trout being caught in the tidewater sections of the Sippican give us hope that a viable sea-run brook trout population may one day be restored to the Sippican River.

Removal of the Hathaway Pond Dam, in addition to improving diadromous fish passage, would restore river habitat by allowing normal sediment transport and re-establishing the natural river channel. Dam removal would also end the impoundment's thermal influence, at once reducing summer water temperature while increasing dissolved oxygen, conditions critical for the survival of trout and other river fish species.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited lauds the efforts of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, in particular, their work on behalf of the watersheds flowing into Buzzards Bay.

Sincerely,

Thomas Magee
President SE MA Chapter of Trout Unlimited