



TOWN OF IPSWICH

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

TOWN MANAGER

January 27, 2014

Mandy Chesnutt
Senior Manager, Conservation Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 15th St., NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Chestnutt:

I am writing to support the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration's (DER's) funding request to NFWF to conduct feasibility studies and/or remove several dams in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As the owner of the Ipswich Mills Dam, the Town of Ipswich is particularly interested in the potential impacts of that dam's removal.

The Town of Ipswich has been working on the dam and its environs for several years. The dam is not only a central feature of our downtown area, but is also a key component of our downtown revitalization efforts and related improvements, which include the riverwalk and foot bridge adjacent to the dam. We recently completed a preliminary feasibility study on the dam and the results of that study indicate that a full feasibility study is warranted.

I understand that the proposed feasibility study will analyze and assess all of the issues associated with possible dam removal, including how it would impact property owners and future water levels. We are committed to supporting the study and look forward to investigating in detail how this will affect our community and the ecology of the river.

We welcome the support of our local watershed association to help DER manage the project. As longtime partners of both entities, we know they will represent well the interests of Ipswich. I am confident that DER and the Ipswich River Watershed Association will bring the Ipswich Mills Dam Feasibility Study to fruition, and thus encourage you to fund DER's proposal to study and/or remove certain dams in Massachusetts. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Glenn Gibbs, the Town's Planning Director, at 978-356-6607 or glenn@ipswich-ma.gov.

Sincerely,

Robin Crosbie
Town Manager