

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

January 20, 2015

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Org. Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

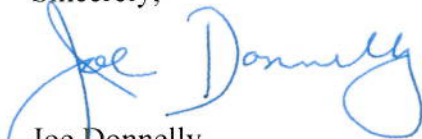
Dear Ms. Waters,

As Senator from Indiana, it is important to me that all Hoosiers and visitors to the state are informed about and have access to the beauty and economic advantages of our natural resources. For these reasons, I support the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association's (NWIPA) application to designate the Kankakee River Water Trail as a National Water Trail. In order to fully realize the benefits the designation provides, it is important that the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois, be included in the National Water Trail designation.

The Kankakee River is already a popular destination for recreational canoeing and fishing. Designation as a National Water Trail will increase community-based recreational opportunities from the headwaters just a few miles southwest of downtown South Bend, Indiana, through six Indiana counties and into Illinois. In addition, the array of resources the designation provides will help NWIPA and its partners benefit from collaboration and information sharing with other water resource management professionals, technical assistance and networking.

Based on the benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail, including increased public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education, I support the NWIPA application to obtain this designation and I encourage a favorable review of its application in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being updated on the progress of their application. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office by contacting Marianne Black at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226-5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator