

Topic: Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act

Request: Protect and restore the Connecticut River by passing the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act

What's the background? The Connecticut River, New England's longest, is ecologically, culturally and historically significant to the origins and economies of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River Watershed is essential in contributing to the resilience of its resident natural and human communities, including the millions of Americans who live, work and recreate within its bounds. It supplies drinking water for 2.3 million people and fills reservoirs that provide water to another 2.5 million. Beyond clean water, the watershed also provides numerous environmental and economic benefits to diverse stakeholders and industries, including forestry, fisheries, farming, hunting, recreation, boating and tourism. In New England, outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver, supporting 195,500 jobs and contributing more than \$17 billion to the economies of the five watershed states.

What does the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act do? The Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act (CRWPA) creates a dedicated funding stream to leverage state, local and private investments in nonregulatory conservation, restoration, education and recreation efforts in the watershed. The CRWPA is modeled on successful partnerships enabled by federal legislation via the Chesapeake WILD Act (2020) and the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (2015). It will enhance coordination among federal agencies and state, regional, tribal and local partners, both public and private.

Where do things stand now? The Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act is supported by a broad coalition of public and private organizations throughout New England and the country. The legislation is expected to be introduced in the 118th Congress shortly by Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA-2) in the House and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in the Senate.

Support the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act