

Morris School

129 West Street, Lenox, MA 01240

Robert H. Vaughan, Principal

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August 14, 2006

NRD Restoration Proposals – Public Comment
Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Lenox Public Schools have a long relationship with the Berkshire Sanctuaries of The Massachusetts Audubon Society; for over twenty-five years educators from Pleasant Valley Sanctuary have visited our fourth grade classrooms to offer the Audubon program, a series of fourteen lessons for each fourth grade class discussing all aspects of Berkshire wildlife and the environment, often tailoring the program to specific interests of the teacher and students.

In the last three or four years, we have had an added component where our fifth graders have an opportunity to paddle the Housatonic River with their teachers and Audubon instructors. This has become a highlight of the fifth grade year. We all live near the river but only a few students have ever been on the river, an experience that includes exploring the habitat of eagles and herons, paddling the meandering bends, and observing the fish and frogs and other aquatic wildlife.

I strongly encourage you to fund the *Housatonic Environmental Literacy Program (HELP) for the River* which will bring the river education experience to our students and educate the next generation of stewards of this important natural resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Vaughan".

Robert H. Vaughan