



# THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF THE BERKSHIRES

*"Follow the child."*

- Maria Montessori

October 11, 2006

Review Team Evaluation Comments  
c/o Woodlot Alternatives  
80 Park Drive  
Topsham, Maine 04086

Dear Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees:

This past spring I worked for the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) as a teacher presenting their Storm Drain Awareness program to schools throughout the Housatonic Watershed. I found this program to be an age-appropriate and interactive way of teaching students about non-point pollution and how individuals can make a difference in their community. The program was extremely well-received by teachers, students, and school administrators.

I also consulted with HVA and MA Audubon about their proposal to collaborate and join forces to create a more far-reaching and higher-impact educational program that will reach students at different grade levels and thereby reinforce the river education information that each organization is now providing separately. By working together, both HVA and MA will be able to hire more staff to reach out to all the schools in the watershed, and by collaborating on the curriculum, they will be able to ensure that the message about preventing further degradation of the river is clear, consistent, and comprehensive.

As the pressure to teach to the MCAS tests increases each year, it will be more and more important that programs like this are still made available to our students so that our future citizens can interact with nature and learn to love the river as a valuable natural resource.

HVA and MA Audubon worked hard and enthusiastically this spring to craft a joint project that will complement and reinforce the student's knowledge about the river and how to protect it, thus creating better informed future-stewards of the river. I hope that you provide the funding these organizations need to be able to carry out their proposal.

Sincerely,

K. Meagan Ledendecker  
Educational Administrator