

October 13, 2006

Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086

sent via electronic mail to: tchadwell@woodlotalt.com

RE: Housatonic River Initiative NRD Proposal *The River Institute*, Application ID #012

Dear Housatonic River NRD Trustees:

It is a distinct pleasure to write in support of the work of the Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) and their vision to bring the Housatonic River Institute to reality.

The Housatonic Environmental Action League (HEAL) is a grassroots environmental coalition of individuals and organizations in the tri-state area of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. We are dedicated to the remediation of the multi-generational contamination by General Electric's polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) of the Housatonic River, its surrounding watershed and the human and wildlife communities that live along its banks.

As the long-standing leading Housatonic River watershed environmental organization, HRI has an extensive record of successful projects and initiatives. Whether it is a local neighborhood meeting, speaking to students, guiding canoe trips or working with world-renowned scientific experts, HRI tackles everything with the same simple philosophy of working towards a swimmable and fishable river.

The US Environmental Protection Agency recognized their worth when they awarded HRI the single Technical Assistance Grant for the entire GE-Housatonic River Site. HRI's track record is impressive and the integrity of the organization is impeccable.

One needs only to look at HRI's extraordinary success rate in that greater than 94% of grants they have written have been awarded...many of them repeat grants from both public and private entities.

Tim Gray, who is also the Waterkeeper Alliance's licensed Housatonic Riverkeeper for Massachusetts and Connecticut, has our unqualified endorsement and deep respect for his unwavering commitment and fearless protection of the watershed and its inhabitants. The River Institute aligns perfectly with the Waterkeeper Alliance's philosophy and mission.

HEAL recommends that the Housatonic River Institute receives favorable consideration by the NRD Trustees during the funding process.

Sincerely,
Audrey Cole
President