

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today the final

The funding was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report approved by the House of Representatives.

“I’m glad that Congress has finally approved an overall spending bill for the current fiscal year.”

A summary of these projects is provided below.

**North Central Massachusetts Bikepath, Gardner -Winchendon: \$450,000**

The North Central Pathway is a planned 16-mile multi-use trail that will connect the communities of Gardner and Winchendon.

To date, 3.5 miles of the pathway have been completed and construction is currently underway.

“The North Central Pathway will become a primary destination point for families, enhancing the quality of life in the region.”

For more information, contact George Kahale, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, at 978-238-2200.

**Wood in Transportation: \$200,000**

The funding will broaden the Massachusetts Wood in Transportation (WIT) program, which provides grants to rural communities.

“This program works to improve rural economies by providing opportunities for new wood products and jobs.”

To date, the program has worked with the Massachusetts Highway Department, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

For more information on WIT, contact Rob Rizzo, director of WIT, Mount Wachusett Community College, at 978-238-2200.

**Eagleville Pines Forest Legacy Project: \$835,000**

The Eagleville Pines Forest Legacy project calls for the protection of roughly 300 acres of forest land in Eagleville.

In the face of increased development pressure, private-public partnerships will use conservation easements to protect the forest.

“Protecting the integrity of this area will benefit the numerous species of plants and animals that inhabit the forest.”

Important ecological values of the proposed tract include its one mile of shoreline on Eagle Lake.

In addition to being actively managed for forest products, the proposed project area has been designated as a National Forest.

For more information, contact Frank Lowenstein at the Nature Conservancy at 413-229-0000.