

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced that the House Appropriations Committee has approved a bill that would provide \$227,000 for the Forest Legacy Program in North Central Massachusetts.

Olver worked to secure the funding under the Forest Legacy Program within the House Interior Appropriations Committee. The funding will be used to purchase conservation easements on private land in the Bush Hill area of North Central Massachusetts.

"Protecting the integrity of this area will benefit the numerous species of plants and animals that live in the area," Olver said. "This funding is a critical step in ensuring the long-term protection of this area."

Approval by the Appropriations Committee is a preliminary step toward final passage of the bill. The bill will be sent to the House floor for a final vote.

The diversity of wildlife in this forest parcel is particularly high due to limited road development, which has helped to preserve the area's natural resources.

The majority of the Bush Hill area will be managed for forestry, with a portion set aside as forever wild. The funding will also be used to support conservation easement purchases.

Under the Forest Legacy Program, private-public partnerships use conservation easements to protect and manage public lands. The program is authorized by the National Forest Management Act.

For further information, contact Al Futterman at the Nashua River Watershed Association at 978-435-1111. The association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and management of the Nashua River watershed.

##