

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved funding for a forest legacy project in North Central Massachusetts.

The funding was included in the Interior Appropriations conference report for fiscal year 2004. The funding will be used to purchase a 1,000-acre forest parcel in North Central Massachusetts.

"I am pleased that we are a step closer to providing federal funding for this preservation effort. The funding will help to protect the forest and the wildlife that live there."

The diversity of wildlife in this forest parcel is particularly high due to the combination of wetlands, old-growth forest, and a variety of habitats.

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 purchase a 1,000-acre forest parcel in North Central Massachusetts.

Under the Forest Legacy Program, private-public partnerships use conservation easements to protect forest land from development.

The conference report approved by the House yesterday is the reconciled version of separate House and Senate bills.

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