

WASHINGTON - Today Congressman John W. Olver announced the introduction of the New England National Scenic Trail Act.

"These trails are a unique collection of scenic, historical and geological treasures," Olver said. "Local residents and visitors alike have long enjoyed these trails."

The New England National Scenic Trail extends 220 miles from the border of New Hampshire in the north to the border of Georgia in the south.

Currently more than two million people live within ten miles of the trail system. As development continues, the trail system is being lost.

Concerned with the future viability of the trail, Congressman Olver introduced a bill in May 2001 that would designate the trail as a National Scenic Trail.

The study, released in Spring 2006, concludes that National Scenic Trail designation is the most feasible way to protect the trail system.

The bill being introduced today follows the recommendation of the feasibility study by designating the trail as a National Scenic Trail.

"Congressman Olver's leadership has been instrumental in moving the vision of the New England National Scenic Trail closer to reality."

Adam R. Moore, Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, said, "The Connecticut Forest & Park Association supports the bill."

Co-sponsors of the bill include Representatives Richard Neal (D-MA), John Larson (D-CT), Joe Courtney (D-CT), and John Garamendi (D-CA).

For more information, contact Jamie Fosburg of the National Parks Service at 617-223-5191.