

THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.
7TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
251 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5361

BERNARDSVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE
75 CLAREMONT ROAD, SUITE 206
BERNARDSVILLE, NJ 07924
(908) 547-3307



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2023

The Honorable Charles F. Sams III
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams:

As the representative of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, I am compelled to bring to your attention a matter of utmost importance concerning the stewardship and preservation of our district's natural resources. This letter serves as a formal request for the National Park Service's (NPS) assistance in conducting a comprehensive reconnaissance survey of the Upper Raritan River, including its key tributaries: the South Branch (51 miles), the North Branch (23 miles), the main stem of the Black/Lamington River (25 miles), and the Neshanic River (11 miles). The eventual aim is to evaluate the feasibility of bestowing upon these critical waterways the esteemed designation of a National Wild and Scenic River.

The significance of these rivers transcends their mere existence as water bodies; they are indeed the very lifeblood of the communities within this area of the district. The ecological health, scenic grandeur, and cultural heritage that these rivers embody are invaluable assets that warrant vigilant protection and thoughtful stewardship, not only for our present constituents but for generations to come.

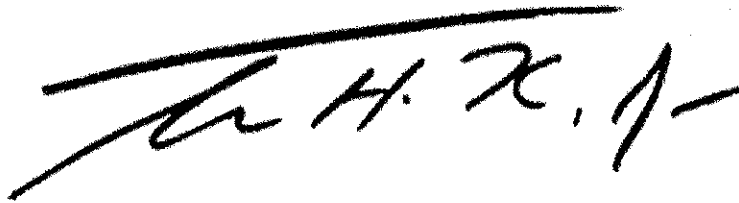
In our unwavering commitment to conserve and utilize these natural resources sustainably, it is imperative that we adopt a proactive approach. The proposed reconnaissance survey and subsequent planning to designate the Upper Raritan River as a "Partnership" National Wild and Scenic River align with our district's long-standing values of responsible, locally driven environmental management, and conservation. This initiative will not only preserve the natural beauty and ecological integrity of these rivers but will also enhance the recreational opportunities for activities such as fishing, canoeing, and other outdoor pursuits, thus contributing to the well-being and quality of life of our citizens.

I am personally dedicated to ensuring the preservation and enrichment of the Upper Raritan River's unparalleled natural and cultural resources. The initiation of a river reconnaissance survey by the NPS, consistent with DO#46, RM Sections 2.1.6.2 – 2.1.6.5, is pivotal in achieving the

comprehensive objectives of a National Wild and Scenic River Study and ensuring the enduring legacy of the Upper Raritan River's waterways for future generations.

Your consideration of this critical matter is highly appreciated. Should you require further information or wish to discuss this proposal in greater detail, please feel free to contact my office at (202)255-5361.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. H. K., Jr.", with a long horizontal stroke above it.

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress