

JOHN W. OLVER  
1ST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2101**

PLEASE RESPOND TO:  
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June 21, 2011

Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I write in regard to the EPA's impending submission to the National Review Board of its cleanup plan for the "Rest of the Housatonic River."

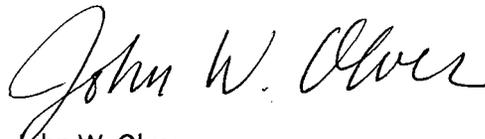
I understand that the Agency has undertaken immense preparation to get to this point, but I believe that the views of Massachusetts' state environmental officials should be given full consideration before the next step in the decision-making process occurs. Because of the sheer complexity of this project, and the because the Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns a significant portion of the river basin being targeted between Fred Gardner Park in Pittsfield and Woods Pond in Lenox, I am respectfully requesting a relatively short delay in your submission to the Review Board for the limited purpose of receiving further input. I am concerned that once the Review Board stamps its imprimatur on the plan the Agency devises, there may be insufficient opportunity for state officials to adequately make their case, notwithstanding the comment period that follows.

I understand that the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection have been in some communication with the EPA on this issue over the past year. But state officials have expressed to me their view that their proposals have not been duly recognized and that time for that is, in a sense, rapidly running out. As stewards of the river and the surrounding ecosystem, state environmental officials want to be assured that the procedures to be implemented will meet their constituencies' health and environmental standards, provide a comprehensive cleanup of PCB's and refrain from being overly invasive to habitats and the scenic resources of the river. It is their hope that through an extended dialogue all parties can have their interests taken into account, including local concerns about any establishment of PCB dumps along the river basin.

These conversations should be concluded within two months so that the overall timetable set by the EPA will not be significantly affected. I believe that the state agencies' points on behalf of their constituencies are legitimate ones to make, and I further believe that the appropriate timing for such conversations is prior to any cleanup plan's submission to the National Review Board.

Please share with me your response to this request as soon as possible. I appreciate the EPA's considerable efforts and accomplishments in moving this multifaceted project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Olver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "O".

John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

Cc: Curt Spalding, Administrator, New England Region  
cc: Senator Ben Downing