

Washington, DC - Rep. Peter Welch (VT-AL) and Rep. Paul Hodes (NH-2) introduced legislation today that will fund conservation efforts in the Upper Connecticut River Valley, which lies at the heart of the two adjacent districts.

Welch said, "This bi-state initiative will be a major boost to promoting the stewardship of the Connecticut River, one of Vermont's and New Hampshire's most vital natural resources."

"The Connecticut River is the economic lifeblood of the communities in this region, and deserves our protection," Hodes said. "We are working across state lines and across party lines to get this done."

The bill would authorize an annual budget of \$1 million federal dollars to fund conservation efforts in the watershed, which is New England's largest ecosystem.

The money would be directed by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions.

The "Upper Connecticut River Partnership Act" was also introduced in the Senate by Vermont's Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders and New Hampshire's Senators.

The legislation was introduced in the previous Congress and passed the Senate. It failed in the House.