

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

**STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY
TAUNTON RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY KICK-OFF
MARCH 16, 2001**

It is my distinct honor to be associated with this great effort. I am proud to be a part of today's kick-off and remain committed to bringing Wild & Scenic designation to the Taunton River.

Make no mistake, this effort was borne of local activism and community support. Those of us at the federal level are proud to take up this effort in service to the thirteen communities and the many people who live and play in the Taunton River.

This kind of work is the most valuable and powerful demonstration of environmental and community stewardship. We all know the unique character and remarkable history of the Taunton River - you are now going to explore and explain them in a most convincing fashion. We will be watching carefully as this process unfolds.

The Taunton River is worthy of Wild & Scenic designation. Along with my colleagues, I eagerly await your feasibility study so that we might conclude this designation. Thank you for all of your hard work.