

ALAN DESBONNET
BOARD PRESIDENT, WPWA
203 ARCADIA ROAD
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

DEAR MR. DESBONNET,

THIS LETTER IS PROMPTED BY AN ACTION TAKEN EARLIER THIS YEAR BY WPWA PROJECT COORDINATOR, DENISE POYER. IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND (ECRI) AND DATED APRIL 26, 2017, MS. POYER EXPRESSES "SOME CONCERNS" REGARDING A RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO ECRI. THE RESOLUTION WAS TO ENDORSE A PROPOSAL MADE BY PROTECT RHODE ISLAND BROOK TROUT (PRIBT) FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA ON THE UPPER WOOD RIVER. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MS. POYER'S ACTION, THE RESOLUTION WAS TABLED.

IN MY VIEW MS. POYER'S COMMENTS, MADE ON WPWA LETTERHEAD, ARE ILL-CONCEIVED AND INSUPPORTABLE. A COPY OF THE LETTER IS ATTACHED. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HER ACTION, I WILL NOT RENEW MY WPWA MEMBERSHIP AND, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, I WILL NOT BE MAKING A "LEGACY" GIFT TO THE ORGANIZATION.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Pezza", followed by a long horizontal line.

PAUL E. PEZZA
BOX 593
EXETER, RHODE ISLAND 02822



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832

401-539-9017 www.wpwa.org

April 26, 2017

Greg Gerrit
Environmental Council of Rhode Island

Dear Greg,

I note that you will be voting on a resolution to support the Protect Rhode Island Brook Trout (PRIBT) proposal to the RIDEM that an experimental wild trout management area be established in the upper Wood River watershed. I am familiar with this issue and have heard the presentations from PRIBT. I have some concerns about the proposed experiment that I would like to share with you.

- While I have a gut feeling they may be correct in their assertion that stocked trout are impacting the wild brook trout populations, I have not seen any verified data to support this. In my conversations with the state wildlife biologists they do not seem to feel there is a problem.
- The area they wish to close to stocking, the upper Wood River and all its tributaries, is a very large area containing thousands of acres. It is heavily used by fisherman during the course of the fishing season.
- RIDEM will not agree to this proposal because it would remove a recreational resource used by thousands of fishermen.
- Changing to catch and release would impose a huge change to the way the area is fished and may put more fishing pressure on the wild brook trout, rather than less.
- Catch and release fishing will still impart a certain amount of morbidity and mortality.

In order to obtain more data regarding the impact of stocked fish over wild populations I continue to suggest that we do this research on a smaller river. The Beaver River in Richmond has a viable population of wild brook trout. It is stocked with hatchery raised trout south of Rt. 138. While fisherman do use this river, it is a relatively small number. I believe this would be an excellent stream to conduct the experiment suggested by PRIBT.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Yours truly,

Denise J. Poyer
WPWA Project Coordinator

*To Preserve and Protect the Lands & Waters of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed
for Our Natural and Human Communities*