



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

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March 14, 2016

Commissioner Leo Roy
Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Re: MassWildlife Proposal for the Endangered Timber Rattlesnake at Quabbin

Dear Commissioner Roy,

As a stakeholder in the programs and policies of DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP), the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) reviews and comments on activities that occur on DCR watershed lands.

While our primary focus is water quality and source protection, WSCAC also supports the opportunity for DWSP to partner with MassWildlife and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to protect rare and endangered species. With over 100,000 acres of protected land, these areas provide a significant contribution to the viability of many plants, birds and animals in Massachusetts.

We support the current MassWildlife proposal to introduce a small native population of the endangered timber rattlesnake to Mount Zion at the Quabbin Reservoir. This large island, off-limits to the public, will provide suitable habitat and increase the possibility of the snake's survival.

The Quabbin watershed continues to benefit from the research generated by the partnership between DWSP and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. WSCAC supports these efforts and the current proposal to ensure the survival of the endangered timber rattlesnake in our state.

Sincerely,

Whitney Beals
Chair

Lexi Dewey
Executive Director