

HOUSE No. 744

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter V. Kocot

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve relative to protecting the archaeological, geological and fossil resources of western Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Peter V. Kocot

1st Hampshire

Ellen Story

3rd Hampshire

HOUSE No. 744

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 744) of Peter V. Kocot and Ellen Story for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the preservation of the archaeological and fossil resources of the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 2007 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
—————

Resolve relative to protecting the archaeological, geological and fossil resources of western Massachusetts.

1 Resolved,
2 There is hereby established a special commission on protecting the archaeological,
3 geological, and fossil resources of the Connecticut River Valley. Said special commission shall
4 review existing special and general laws, may hold hearings at various locations across the
5 Commonwealth to obtain written and oral testimony and may consult with state and federal
6 agencies to determine if existing state laws and regulations adequately protect the archaeological,
7 geological and fossil resources located within the Connecticut River Valley. Said special
8 commission shall be comprised of three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by
9 the Speaker, of which at least two shall be from a district in western Massachusetts that includes
10 a portion of the Connecticut river that has significant fossil, archaeological or geological
11 deposits; three members of the Senate, appointed by the President, of which at least two shall be
12 from a district in western Massachusetts that includes the Connecticut river; four of whom shall
13 be appointed by the Governor, of which one shall be a professor of archaeology at the University
14 of Massachusetts at Amherst, one of whom shall be a recognized authority on western
15 Massachusetts geological formations who is a professor at a Massachusetts college or university,
16 one whom shall be an environmental police officer who has experience with investigating the
17 unlawful removal of archaeological, geological or fossil resources, and one of whom shall be of

18 native American descent of a tribe indigenous to western Massachusetts; one member shall be
19 appointed by the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall be knowledgeable of the
20 archaeological and historic resources of the Connecticut river valley. Said special commission
21 may receive funding through state appropriation or grants, federal appropriation or grants,
22 private gifts and donations, provided, that said special commission shall file its report with the
23 joint committee on natural resources and agriculture and the clerks of the House and Senate no
24 later than October 1, 2014.