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As an interested citizen who wishes to see the Connecticut River become a more robust, environmentally sound, and economically viable and valuable asset to our community, I wish to comment on the relicensing process outlined for FirstLight at Turners Falls. It is important that this extraordinary resource be utilized and partnered with in a manner that will prove beneficial to both power generation and wildlife preservation.

In an effort to improve fish survival above the Turners Falls dam, a proper study of the canal needs to be included. I am a frequent recreational visitor along the canal, and it does not appear to be a "natural" body of water. It roils and moves at great speed, until the wider part near the end. And given that the canal is "cleaned out" each year, typical sedimentation and vegetation do not develop or survive. It appears to a lay person to be simply an open "pipe," not a natural body of water that might foster fish spawning or survival. I support the study of canal hydraulics by Karl Meyer that is included in the September 2013 Study Plan Determinations letter.

While I am neither a fisherman or a scientific researcher, I am a citizen who is convinced that economic strength and ecological diversity are mutually obtainable goals. The power of the Connecticut River is truly awe inspiring. We owe it to future generations to respect this resource and achieve its full potential to serve us and support life. I request that the Federal government require adequate study of the use of these waters to foster maximum benefit to natural habitats and our community.