

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2016

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes as you mark the completion of the EPA's cleanup and observe the opening of a new section of the Winnepesaukee River Trail. How fitting that we gather on Earth Day – a time set aside to call for continued stewardship of valuable public resources like clean water, clean air and clean soil – to celebrate the ongoing effort to preserve our natural resources for future generations. Thank you to the Town of Tilton and all who came together to make this event possible.

Multi-use recreational trails on federal, state and private land are a critical resource for our state. Access to these trails for walking, running, biking, snowmobiling and other activities improves public health while promoting and preserving the remarkable natural beauty that draws people from across New England and the country to the Granite State. And the maintenance of these trails – so much of which is done by volunteers – is a remarkable demonstration of how dedicated people in the region are to their communities.

The Winnepesaukee River Trail is a wonderful way to provide sustainable enjoyment of the area's natural beauty, and we should all take a moment to recognize the efforts of the men and women who work to make its construction, maintenance and use such a resounding success.

This section of the Winnepesaukee River Trail is all the more impressive considering its paths wind through sites once contaminated with polluted soil. Its recovery is the product of efforts from partners on the federal, state and local level working together toward a greater good. I was here in 2012 to celebrate Franklin and Tilton receiving funds through the EPA's competitive Brownfields Grant Program. Now – nearly four years later – we see the beautiful result of a commitment not only to cleaning up hazardous sites, but also ensuring they are developed into useful assets for the community.

Happy Earth Day! I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator