

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2007**

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**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 adoption of the accompanying resolve:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

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By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2007) 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.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 762 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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Resolve relative to protecting the archaeological, geological and fossil resources of western Massachusetts.

1           **Resolved**, There is hereby established a special commission on protecting the  
2 archaeological, geological, and fossil resources of the Connecticut River Valley. Said special  
3 commission shall review existing special and general laws, may hold hearings at various  
4 locations across the Commonwealth to obtain written and oral testimony and may consult with  
5 state and federal agencies to determine if existing state laws and regulations adequately protect  
6 the archaeological, geological and fossil resources located within the Connecticut River Valley.  
7 Said special commission shall be comprised of three members of the House of Representatives,  
8 appointed by the Speaker, of which at least two shall be from a district in western Massachusetts  
9 that includes a portion of the Connecticut river that has significant fossil, archaeological or  
10 geological deposits; three members of the Senate, appointed by the President, of which at least  
11 two shall be from a district in western Massachusetts that includes the Connecticut river; four of

12 whom shall be appointed by the Governor, of which one shall be a professor of archaeology at  
13 the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, one of whom shall be a recognized authority on  
14 western Massachusetts geological formations who is a professor at a Massachusetts college or  
15 university, one whom shall be an environmental police officer who has experience with  
16 investigating the unlawful removal of archaeological, geological or fossil resources, and one of  
17 whom shall be of native American descent of a tribe indigenous to western Massachusetts; one  
18 member shall be appointed by the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall be knowledgeable  
19 of the archaeological and historic resources of the Connecticut river valley. Said special  
20 commission may receive funding through state appropriation or grants, federal appropriation or  
21 grants, private gifts and donations, provided, that said special commission shall file its report  
22 with the joint committee on natural resources and agriculture and the clerks of the House and  
23 Senate no later than October 1, 2012.