



Hon. Antonio Cabral
24 Beacon St.
Room 466
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. Marc Pacheco
24 Beacon St.
Room 312-B
Boston, MA 02133

Oct. 8, 2021

Dear Honorable Chairman Cabral and Chairman Pacheco,

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is pleased to write and support bill H.4189 that would designate the Blue-spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma laterale*, the official amphibian of Massachusetts.

MyRWA was founded in 1972 to protect and restore the river, its tributaries, and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations. The Mystic River Watershed includes the communities of Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, and Woburn. A staff of 12 and thousands of volunteers, work to improve water quality and habitat throughout the watershed with scientific monitoring, restoration, climate resiliency projects, stewardship, education, and advocacy.

MyRWA believes that the Blue-spotted Salamander is an outstanding choice for designation as the official state amphibian given the current vulnerability of the species, the charismatic coloring and the role that it can play in highlighting habitat needs for a range of wildlife. Highlighting the vulnerability, this species was [listed as a species of "Special Concern"](#) under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

Please accept this letter as strong endorsement of bill H.4189. If we can be of assistance during deliberations, we are happy to provide more information relative to habitat and the Mystic River Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Herron".

Patrick Herron
Executive Director