



April 9, 2014

Reid W. Bertone-Johnson  
Manager  
Ada & Archibald MacLeish Field Station  
Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Reid,

Kestrel Land Trust commends Smith College for being the first private college in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts to permanently conserve its land. The conservation of this land is a significant contribution to the ecological and agricultural integrity of the region.

The donation of a Conservation Restriction on 190-acres of the MacLeish Field Station in Whately and Conway to Kestrel Land Trust in 2013 prohibits development and commits the College to the long-term stewardship of the land for ecological research, environmental education, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and low-impact recreation. This is an outstanding model for other colleges and institutional landowners. Indeed, Smith's leadership has already helped inspire other institutions in the area to follow suit.

Smith College is an integral part of what makes the Valley a great place to learn and live. With the donation of this Conservation Restriction, Smith has also proven itself as an innovative leader to advance local land conservation. For this reason, Kestrel Land Trust enthusiastically supports Smith College's application to the STARS Program as an exemplary sustainable institute of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin DeBoer".

Kristin DeBoer  
Executive Director