

Testimony before the House Committee on Natural  
Resources, Fish and Wildlife

February 17, 2022

Mike Kline, River Ecologist  
Middlesex, Vermont

## Protected river corridors and functioning floodplains will:

- slow down flood flows and give room for rivers to achieve their least erosive condition,
- maintain groundwater levels important to soil health, working lands production, and the temperature regimes important to our native cold-water species,
- reduce flood and fluvial erosion damage in our transportation corridors and economic centers,
- capture and store carbon and nutrients needed to build and enrich our soils, that otherwise go downstream to feed the algal blooms that impair our lakes and ponds, and
- restore and maintain aquatic, riparian, and wetland connectivity and biodiversity.





**West Branch of the  
Passumpsic River just  
upstream of Lyndonville**

# Suggested amendments to 10 V.S.A. § 754 - Flood Hazard Area Rules

1. Expand jurisdiction of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule to all development along streams and rivers that have a **mapped** river corridor.

2. Require ANR to revise its Rule with a process for amending the statewide river corridor map with defined areas, within designated centers, suitable for infill and redevelopment that will not cause or contribute to increases in fluvial erosion hazards.

3. Authorize the ANR to include within its Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule provisions for permits to include the maintenance of existing native riparian vegetation in mapped river corridors.

