



# Massachusetts' JURASSIC ARMORED MUD BALLS, one of the world's rarest geological features!

Designate these unique-in-the-world "JAMBs" an official State "Sedimentary Structure"! This will preserve, protect, and celebrate these amusing, unique, and photogenic geologic features that are in the same geologic layers as our State Dinosaur (*Podokesaurus*) and our State Fossil (*Dino. Footprints*).



★ **CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS!** ★ The bills listed below are now being considered (2025-2026).

**WHAT ARE ARMORED MUD BALLS?** Hard mud fell into a flooding stream, got tumbled, rounded and coated ("armored") with streambed pebbles. With some luck, a quick burial and lithification (hardened to rock) preserved these delicate "sedimentary structures". Eventually, over geologic time, erosion revealed the JAMBs for discovery. A rock quarry in just the right location is needed to find and remove specimens. *The formation, preservation, and discovery of armored mud balls is so rare that in the whole world, our Massachusetts examples are the only ones easily seen.\** And they are by far the best! They illustrate a variety of sizes, from golf ball to basketball and have distinct pebble armor. *They are found in 200 million-year-old Jurassic-age reddish sedimentary rock of the Connecticut River Valley in Turners Falls and Gill, with a few examples, slightly older (Triassic-age) in Greenfield and Deerfield.* Quarried blocks from a now-dismantled bridge foundation in Turners Falls luckily revealed excellent JAMBs. These are now preserved along the Greenfield Community College Geology Path and also at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Smaller specimens have been contributed to local colleges and museums.



**Massachusetts' JAMBs ARE IMPORTANT.** They are unique-in-the-world specimens that preserve rare events from the Connecticut River Valley's "Age of Dinosaurs." Geologists, students, and the public are always amazed when seeing these unusual, intriguing, and photogenic specimens. Everyone smiles. It is a great way to promote geoscience education! The JAMBs are enthusiastically supported by geoscience professionals and the public. Thousands of people have visited the [ArmoredMudBalls.rocks](http://ArmoredMudBalls.rocks) website. The JAMBs need to be official Massachusetts "Sedimentary Structures"! Otherwise, they will likely be neglected and their significance forgotten. That will be a great loss to the world of science as well as to Massachusetts.

**"The Jurassic Armored Mud Balls are one of the rarest sedimentary structures in the world, representing a unique geologic environment... and are only easily seen in Massachusetts. That alone makes this feature worthy of recognition."** (Drs. Steve Mabee & Brian Yellen, former and current Mass. State Geologists)

➔ PLEASE: Request your State Legislators to support and, importantly, be CO-SPONSORS of the bills below.

★ HOUSE BILL: **HD 548** Lead Sponsor: Rep. Susannah Whipps

★ SENATE BILL: **SD 830** Lead Sponsor: Sen. Jo Comerford

For a bill to pass, lots of co-sponsors are needed. Emails to your legislators are easy to do!

ALSO: You can join our "Working Group" (or work informally) to promote the JAMBs, especially in the eastern part of the state where familiarity with JAMBs is less common. *Inquire about promotional materials. Let's get the JAMBs to go "viral"!*

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