



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

September 28, 2022

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Alicea Charamut

David Kalafa

Kip Kolesinskas

Matthew Reiser

Charles Vidich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

The Honorable Tracey Hanson
First Selectman
Office of the First Selectman
115 Main Street, PO Box 96
Voluntown, CT 06384

Re: Forge Hill Road Bridge, Voluntown
Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Number 0147-0062

Dear First Selectman Hanson:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received the Press Release regarding the proposed bridge replacement project for the Forge Hill Road Bridge in Voluntown. The Council notes that the bridge is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) buffer area, and the proposed project has the potential to impact fisheries resources, state-listed species, and inland wetlands. The Council recommends that the bridge designers/construction company consult with DEEP's Fisheries Division and the NDDDB for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse effects on fisheries resources and state-listed species. Further, the Council recommends that the Voluntown Inland Wetland Commission carefully review the proposed project, at the appropriate time, for consistency with the Town's Wetland Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Aresta".

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

c:Marc Byrnes, DOT, Transportation Supervising Engineer
James Barrows, DOT, Transportation Engineer 3