



*STATE OF CONNECTICUT*

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

September 28, 2022

Keith Ainsworth  
*Acting Chair*

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

Alicea Charamut

David Kalafa

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

Kip Kolesinskas

Dear First Selectman Hanson:

Matthew Reiser

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.

Charles Vidich

William Warzecha

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Paul Aresta  
*Executive Director*

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

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director

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