



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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*Executive Director*

February 28, 2025

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Bumgardner, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: House Bill No. 6868 - An Act Enhancing Environmental Permitting Predictability

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **SUPPORTS** the concept identified in Section 2 of the proposed bill that would allow the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to require, as a condition of permit issuance or certification, watershed-level compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to water resources caused by any regulated activity, under certain conditions.

The Council also **SUPPORTS** the provisions of Section 3 of the proposed bill that would require the Commissioner of DEEP to evaluate potential improvements to environmental reviews, undertaken pursuant to the state Endangered Species Act. The Council suggests that the evaluation and report also identify the need for increased staffing and resources 1) to collect information on species that are or could be subject to the state's Endangered Species Act, and 2) to undertake environmental reviews.

The Council suggests that Section 4 of the proposed bill be **deleted** since it could significantly limit the public's ability to be granted a public hearing on a license that could unreasonably pollute, impair or destroy the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director