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Executive Director

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 23, 2026

The Honorable Kevin Witkos
First Selectman, Town of Canton
PO Box 168
Canton, CT 06022
kwitkos@townofcantonct.org

Re: Atwater Road Bridge over Rattlesnake Brook

Dear First Selectman Witkos,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received a press release regarding the proposed replacement of the Atwater Road Bridge over Rattlesnake Brook in Canton. The Council offers the following comments regarding the proposed project.

The Council notes that the Atwater Road Bridge is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer area. Further, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool indicates that there is a possibility that Tricolored Bat (TCB), a species proposed to be listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, might occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area. The Council recommends that the bridge construction company consult with DEEP's NDDB unit for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on federal and/or state-listed species. The Council also notes that the proposed bridge replacement project has the potential to impact inland wetlands. The Council recommends that the Canton Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency 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,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

c: Marc Byrnes, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT)
James Barrows, Transportation Engineer 3, DOT
Michelle M. Rame, Transportation Engineer, DOT
Robin Blum, Supervising Wildlife Biologist, DEEP
Neil Pade, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, Town of Canton