

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 28, 2026



Keith Ainsworth  
*Acting Chair*

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Paul Aresta  
*Executive Director*

Brian Palaia  
Town Manager, Town of Killingly  
172 Main Street  
Killingly, CT 06239  
[townmanager@killinglyct.gov](mailto:townmanager@killinglyct.gov)

Re: Peep Toad Bridge over Whetstone Brook, Cotton Bridge Road Bridge over Quinebaug River, North Road Bridge over Five Mile River, Wright Road Bridge over Quanduck Brook

Dear Brian Palaia,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received a press release regarding the proposed bridge replacement projects for the Peep Toad Bridge over Whetstone Brook, Cotton Bridge Road Bridge over Quinebaug River, North Road Bridge over Five Mile River, and Wright Road Bridge over Quanduck Brook in Killingly. The Council offers the following comments regarding the proposed projects.

The Council notes that the Cotton Bridge Road Bridge and the North Road Bridge are located within Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer areas. Further, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool indicates that there is a possibility that Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB), a species listed as endangered, might occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area for North Road Bridge. The Council recommends that the bridge construction company(s) consult with DEEP's NDDB for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on federal and/or state-listed species.

The Council notes that the Cotton Bridge Road Bridge and the North Road Bridge crosses the Quinebaug River and the Five Mile River, respectively. The Quinebaug River and Five Mile River have been identified as "Trout Stocking Streams" by DEEP's Fisheries Division. The Council recommends that the bridge construction company(s) consult with DEEP's Fisheries Division for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on trout stocking activities.

Lastly, the Council notes that the proposed bridge replacement projects have the potential to impact inland wetlands. The Council recommends that the Killingly Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission carefully review the proposed projects, 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 black ink that reads "Paul Aresta".

Paul Aresta, Executive Director

c: David Capacchione, Director of Engineering and Facilities, Killingly  
Marc Byrnes, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT)  
James Barrows, Transportation Engineer 3, DOT  
Michelle M. Rame, Transportation Engineer, DOT