

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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August 26, 2026

Emma Cimino
Acting Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Emma.Cimino@ct.gov

Re: Noise regulations and enforcement

Dear Acting Commissioner Cimino,

The Council on Environmental Quality recently received complaints regarding the enforcement of statutes, regulations, and ordinances that address noise control in Connecticut. Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Sections 22a-67 through 22a-76 address "Noise Pollution Control", which includes CGS Section 22a-67 that establishes the state's policy regarding noise: "*(a) The legislature finds and declares that: (1) Excessive noise is a serious hazard to the health, welfare and quality of life of the citizens of the state of Connecticut; (2) exposure to certain levels of noise can result in physiological, psychological and economic damage; (3) a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive noise may be substantially abated; (4) the primary responsibility for control of noise rests with the state and the political subdivisions thereof; (5) each person has a right to an environment free from noise that may jeopardize his health, safety or welfare.*"

Consistent with the provisions of CGS Section 22a-69, the state of Connecticut developed and adopted regulations for the "Control of Noise" (Sections 22a-69-1 through 22a-69-7.4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA)). Such regulations contain provisions including, but not limited to, definitions, noise zones, allowable noise levels, measurement procedures, violations, and enforcement. And while the RCSA Section 22a-69-7.4 provides the authority for the "Office of Noise Control" at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to enforce the provisions of the regulations that address the control of noise, there are no personnel at DEEP available to enforce the provisions of the statutes and regulations that address the control of noise or to assist municipalities to do so.

According to a recent study,^{li} "seventy-eight of Connecticut's 169 municipalities (approximately 46 percent) have formally adopted a noise ordinance"; however, 59 of these municipalities were found to be in "partial compliance" and 18 were found to be in "marginal compliance," based on "the degree to which their ordinances meet or exceed the standards established in the state noise regulations." This study also identifies mechanisms or strategies that could be employed to improve adherence with the state's noise regulations, including "municipal education, model ordinance development, technical assistance through Councils of Governments, and research into enforcement practices and zoning-based noise controls."

To ensure that citizens of the state have an environment free from excessive noise that may jeopardize their health, safety, or welfare, the Council suggests that DEEP undertake the following:

- identify the major sources of noise for stationary facilities that are within DEEP's regulatory purview;
- ensure that any authorizations issued by DEEP for the identified facilities include a requirement that such facility(s) comply with applicable noise standards;
- conduct a review of Connecticut's noise regulations to update and strengthen them to be more protective of human health, including low-frequency noise sources;
- ensure that the Office of Noise Control is funded, equipped, and staffed to enforce the provisions of the RCSA that address the control of noise; and
- provide assistance to Councils of Governments, Regional Planning Agencies, and municipalities for the control of noise.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Aresta", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

ⁱ Western Connecticut Council of Government, Noise Ordinances of Connecticut, An Initial Report on the CT Noise Ordinance Inventory – 2026, Published January 2026.