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State of Connecticut
SENATE

CHIEF DEPUTY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
SCREENING CHAIRMAN

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
REG REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 17, 2021

Katie Dykes
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Katie.Dykes@ct.gov
Via electronic mail

cc. The Honorable Maria Horn
cc. Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumbull

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

At the request of a constituent, I recently visited the Housatonic Meadows State Park in Sharon to observe tree removal performed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP"), or one of its contractors, on the embankment of the Housatonic River. The scene was startling. The high volume and location of tree-cutting, along with the selection of trees cut and marked to be removed without notice seems to be in conflict with DEEP's charges and purposes.

Accordingly, I would like to understand DEEP's intentions behind this work as well as any type of review within the agency, or outside the agency, prior to the removals. I would like also to understand the impetus for the project and its potential environmental impact and impact on endangered species, its potential impact related to invasive species, what public notices were given and what public meetings were held?

Prior to any additional trees being removed, I am requesting copies of all communications and documents, whether printed or electronic, whether email or text, that are in any way related to this project and a further discussion including a locational map designating the newest list of trees slated for removal, trimming or non-action. As discussed today with Deputy Commissioner Trumbull, I feel it is important that the agency reach out to interested stakeholders, the list of which I believe the agency is working on, and that Representative Horn and I be briefed again prior to the tree-removal work resuming. For the sake of clarity, please consider this a request pursuant to our Freedom of Information Laws, *Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 1-200, et seq.*

If you have any questions, I may be reached at 860-309-0485.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Miner".

Craig Miner