



For Immediate Release:

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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Files Legal Challenge to Protect
Historic Headquarters Road Bridge & Exceptional Value Tincum Creek**

Harrisburg, PA - The Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed an appeal of permits issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for demolition of the historic Headquarters Road Bridge in Tincum Township, Bucks County.

According to the legal filing:

“In addition, the Application is inaccurate in several important respects, including: the alleged 0.44-acre area of disturbance is a significant underestimate; PennDOT discounted their stormwater contribution and erroneously answered “no” ... when asked whether the project will involve discharge of stormwater to a surface water; the Environmental Assessment inaccurately states no risks of impacts to the downstream stream bed and stream banks; and application materials claim to “increase” the free-flowing nature of Tincum Creek when the stream currently exists in a free-flowing condition with no impediments to biological movement through the bridge section.”

“The Tincum Creek and Headquarters Road Bridge are beautiful and irreplaceable assets to Tincum Township, Bucks County and our Wild & Scenic Delaware River landscape. The decision by PennDOT and the federal government to demolish the bridge and inflict serious, far reaching and long-term damage on the exceptional value Tincum Creek is simply indefensible. There are sound solutions that protect the creek, protect the historic bridge, and well-serve all the traffic needs of the community, but PennDOT has closed its ears to any option but its damaging proposal. Sadly, it is on the community and Delaware Riverkeeper Network to enforce the law and put us on a path that will best protect our environment, serve the community, and honor the law,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

PennDOT proposes to replace the unique and historic Headquarters Road bridge with a larger two-lane structure, despite the demonstrated harmful impacts for the exceptional value Tincum Creek and the environment, and despite the proven ability of the historic bridge to safely handle traffic on the local road. Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the community have been urging PennDOT to rehabilitate the bridge

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to protect the quality and health of the Tincum Creek, and to preserve the area's natural and historic resources.

Headquarters Road Bridge was built in 1812 and is historically significant. The oldest bridge of its type left in Pennsylvania, historians say it is also one of the only surviving pier-to-pier bridges of this type in the country. The bridge crosses Tincum Creek, a Pennsylvania designated Exceptional Value waterway within the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River District. The bridge is a contributing element to the Ridge Valley Rural Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Read the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's filing here:

<https://delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/FILED%20Notice%20of%20Appeal.pdf>

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