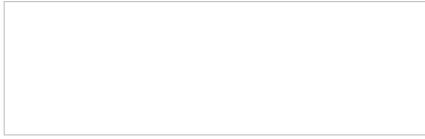


From: Laura Bennett, FNFSR executive.director@fnfsr.org
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Submission – Corridor H SEA (Wardensville to VA)
Date: May 28, 2025 at 3:35 PM
To: Kim Woodwell kwoodwell@shenandoahalliance.org

EF



Laura Bennett, Executive Director
laura.bennett@fnfsr.org
P.O. Box 746; Woodstock, VA 22664
O: 540-456-1175 C: 540-335-2202

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Bennett, FNFSR** <executive.director@fnfsr.org>
Date: Wed, May 28, 2025 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Public Comment Submission – Corridor H SEA (Wardensville to VA)
To: <Sarah.L.Runyon@wv.gov>
Cc: <Jason.Workman@dot.gov>, <Isaac_Sarver@warner.senate.gov>, <Micah_Barbour@warner.senate.gov>, <Nick_Barbash@kaine.senate.gov>, <Evan_McWalters@kaine.senate.gov>, <Julie.Shaffer@mail.house.gov>, <Ali.Vangrow@mail.house.gov>, <senatorfrench@senate.virginia.gov>, <DeITGilbert@house.virginia.gov>, <jbwalters1340@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Runyon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the proposed extension of Corridor H from Wardensville, West Virginia to the Virginia state line.

On behalf of **Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River (FNFSR)**, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the current design and advancement of this project. We urge WVDOH and FHWA to pause this effort and initiate a **new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** to adequately evaluate today's conditions, impacts, and alternatives—including those affecting Virginia communities and resources.

FNFSR has worked for nearly four decades to protect and restore the health of the North Fork watershed. The proposed route threatens several tributaries—including Stony Creek, Paddy Run, Cove Run, and Little Stony Creek—that flow into Cedar Creek and the North Fork. These streams support native trout populations, provide drinking water, and are vital to our region's ecological integrity, recreational economy, and public health.

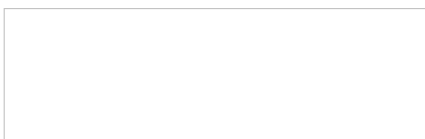
Pushing a four-lane divided highway to the Virginia line without coordination, planning, or public support from our side of the border is not just shortsighted—it's potentially destructive. These communities have consistently opposed Corridor H's expansion into Virginia. Our elected officials, including the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors and the Strasburg Town Council, have spoken out clearly and repeatedly against it.

We also remain deeply concerned about the irreversible damage the project could cause to **Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park**, the **Fisher's Hill Battlefield**, and the George Washington National Forest—landscapes of national significance that should be safeguarded for future generations.

It is possible that targeted, in-corridor improvements to Route 55 could meet transportation and safety goals without imposing such heavy costs on our water, history, and rural character. A new EIS must fully evaluate these alternatives and the cross-border impacts currently absent from the SEA.

Thank you for your attention and for considering our perspective from downstream. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Laura Bennett
Executive Director



Laura Bennett, Executive Director
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