



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT



May 8, 2023

Samuel S. Gold, AICP
Executive Director
Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
145 Dennison Rd
Essex, CT 06426

Re: 2023 – 2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the RiverCOG Economic Development District

Dear Mr. Gold:

Thank you for submitting the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments' (RiverCOG) request for approval from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Lower Connecticut River Valley region (the "2023-2028 CEDS"). On January 10, 2022, the State of Connecticut approved Lower Connecticut River Valley region status as an Economic Development District with RiverCOG's board serving as the board of directors for the Economic Development District. The Lower Connecticut River Valley region includes the following seventeen municipalities: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. The region conforms to the boundaries established by RiverCOG and approved by OPM.

DECD and OPM finds that pursuant to Sec. 32-741 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), RiverCOG is a Council of Governments entity, established under the C.G.S. Sec. 4-124i to 4-124p and 8-31 to 8-37a, and is eligible to prepare and request approval for the 2023-2028 CEDS. Both OPM and DECD reviewed the 2023-2028 CEDS and find the following:

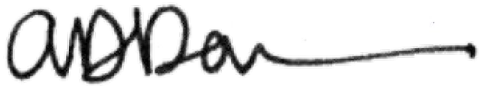
- The 2023-2028 CEDS was prepared in a manner consistent with C.G.S. Sections 32-741 - 32-743.
- The 2023-2028 CEDS plan includes
 - An analysis of the community, including an economic overview of RiverCOG
 - A regional background and demographic review
 - Specified goals and objectives
 - An action plan for improving the region; and
 - Performance measures to review progress

- The 2023-2028 CEDS is generally consistent with the plan of conservation and development strategies of the statewide comprehensive economic development strategy.

The Commissioner of DECD and Secretary of OPM are hereby pleased to inform you that the 2023-2028 CEDS is approved. RiverCOG may submit the 2023-2028 CEDS to the United States Economic Development Administration (USEDA) for approval pursuant to 42 U.S. Code § 3121.

We sincerely hope that RiverCOG can maximize the implementation of this plan to make your region and the State of Connecticut a better and more prosperous place to live, work, and play. Congratulations to you and your team on a job well done.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Daum
Commissioner, DECD



Jeffrey R. Beckham
Secretary, OPM

cc: Robert Hotaling, Deputy Commissioner, DECD
Martin Heft, Undersecretary, OPM
Rebecca Augur, Policy Development Coordinator, OPM
Binu Chandy, Director OBRD, DECD
William Wallach, Project Manager OBRD, DECD