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## **The Delaware Riverkeeper Network Sends Expert Comments about Headquarters Road Bridge**

**Bristol, PA** – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) sent two expert letters about the Headquarters Road Bridge in Tincum Township, Bucks County to the Historic Bridge Foundation, as well as to the offices of Senator Bob Casey and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, urging preservation of the historic bridge.

These letters, written in response to a letter from the Historic Bridge Foundation sent to PennDOT, encourage the Historic Bridge Foundation to recognize the Headquarters Road Bridge for its historical significance, and to acknowledge that rehabilitation of the bridge is the best course of action. The Historic Bridge Foundation letter provided suggestions for mitigation of the bridge, but did not convey any support for bridge rehabilitation.

“It is quite shocking to see our government agencies failing to take their responsibilities seriously to protect our natural and historic resources while at the same time providing for our transportation needs. In the case of the Headquarters Road bridge there is no choice to be made between the environment, history and community transportation; in fact, the most reasonable solution will accomplish all of these goals at once and will do so more quickly and at a lesser price tag. That solution is rehabilitation,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

One letter, written by Dr. Robert Reynolds of Kutztown University, highlighted the importance of the bridge to the surrounding historic district, as well as the impact a new bridge could have on Tincum Creek and the surrounding land. In his letter, Dr. Reynolds indicated the decision to demolish the Headquarters Road Bridge highlights a widespread problem with PennDOT and the agency’s failure to preserve historic bridges in historic districts.

The second letter, written by Douglas Bond of McMullan & Associates, also supported rehabilitation of the stone abutments and piers. The letter also stated that PennDOT’s reasons for replacing the bridge appear to be based upon non-structural reasons.

The bridge, built in 1812, is located in the Ridge Valley Rural Historic District and crosses over the Exceptional Value (EV) Tincum Creek. DRN is advocating that the current, historic bridge

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be rehabilitated to preserve the natural and historic resources of the area, but PennDOT has plans to destroy the bridge and replace it with a modern structure.

View the letters at:

<http://delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Letter%20to%20HBF%20re%20Headquarters%20Bridge%20Structural%20Rehabilitation%20%282018-02-23%29.pdf>

<http://delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Reynolds%20Historic%20Bridge%20Foundation%20Response%20%282018-02-27%29.pdf>

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*Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.*