



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

July 29, 2013

Senator Andres Ayala
Representative Selim G. Noujaim
Regulations Review Committee, Room 1800
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Amendments to Hunting Regulations: Sections 26-67e-1, 26-67e-2, 26-67e-3, 26-67e-4, 26-67e-5, 26-67e-6, 26-67e-7, 26-67e-8, 26-67e-9, 26-67e-11, 26-67e-12, 26-67e-13, 26-67e-14, 26-67e-15, 26-67e-16, 26-67e-17, and 26-67e-18 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Dear Senator Ayala and Representative Noujaim:

Pursuant to section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit the enclosed proposed falconry regulation for your consideration and approval.

The proposed regulations amend the existing regulations that govern the sport of falconry – in order to achieve clarity and consistency with federal regulations. Specifically, the proposed changes include clarifications and new definitions; remove obsolete requirements based on changes to CGS 26-55; prohibit application or sponsorship by individuals with migratory bird regulation violations; specify the conditions for the reinstatement of falconry permits; remove reciprocity language for non-resident falconry permit fees; align the dates of the bird replacement period with the permitting period; change the minimum age of a general class falconer to 16; clarify experience requirements for general and master class applicants; incorporate options to recognize the completion of falconry examinations in other states; clarify the housing requirements; clarify the allowances for the temporary custody of raptors; reference relevant laws to determine the list of species approved for use in falconry; prohibit the possession of eagles and species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern; allow for the transfer of raptors between falconers and migratory bird wildlife rehabilitators; clarify banding and marking requirements; define allowances for possession, transfer and exchange of raptor feathers; clarify requirements for disposition of raptors that die in captivity; prohibit hacking; define acceptable training practices; outline the conditions for falconers who conduct public education programs; address the use of falconry birds in movies and other promotional events; address the conditions for falconers who conduct abatement activities; address the requirements if a falconer dies; and clarify reporting requirements.

These regulations will ensure that Connecticut companies with the new federal falconry regulations adopted on November 7, 2008 under 50 CFR 21.29 that have eliminated federal falconry permits. As a consequence of the change in Federal regulations and this amendment, the redundant Federal permit will be eliminated which will ease the burden on the regulated public with no additional burden on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

If there are any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Robert LaFrance, the Department's Legislative Liaison at Robert.lafrance@ct.gov or 860-424-3401. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner

Cc: Robert LaFrance

DCE/WAH/eh
Enclosure