



TOWN OF HAMDEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ADAM SENDROFF, MAYOR

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September 29, 2026

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106-5127

RE: Federal Consistency Review under Section 307(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Proposed Amazon Electric Drone Package Delivery Operations

Dear Environmental Analyst Karen Michaels,

I am submitting these comments regarding the Federal Consistency Determination for Amazon's proposed Electric Drone Package Delivery Operations in North Haven and respectfully request a pause on the FAA's consistency determination until sufficient time and information are provided to fully evaluate the project's potential impacts. While several concerns have been raised regarding the broader impacts of the proposed operation, I write specifically regarding its potential effects on the Quinnipiac River corridor and tidal marsh, a significant coastal resource extending through North Haven, Hamden, and New Haven.

The Quinnipiac River tidal marsh is an approximately 900-acre tidal wetland system extending roughly six miles along the lower Quinnipiac River. DEEP's own watershed planning materials recognize the marsh as a unique ecological resource that supports estuarine and coastal species, provides nursery habitat for coastal fish, supports waterfowl and other wildlife, improves water quality, and helps protect surrounding areas from flooding. The river and its tidal wetlands also provide important habitat for migratory species that use the corridor for seasonal movement, feeding, and stopover. A substantial portion of this system is also managed by DEEP as the Quinnipiac River Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

These resources are precisely the type of interconnected coastal ecosystem contemplated by Connecticut's Coastal Management Act. CGS § 22a-91 recognizes tidal rivers, wetlands, marshes, and adjacent shorelands as components of an "integrated natural estuarine ecosystem" that is both unique and fragile. Section 22a-92 further establishes state policies to preserve and enhance coastal resources and to preserve tidal wetlands and their vital natural functions.



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The proposed introduction of frequent, low-altitude commercial drone operations into this corridor warrants concern. The concern is not limited to the effect of an individual drone flight. Rather, DEEP should consider the cumulative effects of repeated flights throughout the day on a tidal wetland and wildlife corridor already surrounded by substantial commercial, industrial, residential development, and transportation infrastructure.

The Quinnipiac River corridor provides important feeding, nesting, roosting, and migratory habitat for numerous avian species. Of particular concern is Bald Eagle activity along the river and its adjacent forested areas, including a known nesting pair located on Hamden Land Conservation Trust property along the Quinnipiac River. The presence of an established nesting pair demonstrates that the corridor is not simply potential habitat but is actively used by Bald Eagles for nesting and for access to the river's feeding and foraging areas. Repeated low-altitude drone activity within areas used for nesting, roosting, and foraging therefore deserves careful, site-specific evaluation.

The importance of the Quinnipiac River corridor to Bald Eagles is not limited to its resident or nesting population. DEEP identifies the Quinnipiac River as one of Connecticut's important locations for observing Bald Eagles during the winter, when eagles from northern regions migrate south in search of open water and available food. As a result, eagle use of the corridor may increase seasonally from approximately December through early March. Given the location of Amazon's North Haven facility east of the Quinnipiac River, drone deliveries traveling west toward Hamden and other communities would necessarily cross the river and its associated habitat, making the potential interactions very frequent.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that DEEP pause any final concurrence with the FAA's determination to allow sufficient time to fully consider the concerns raised by residents, municipalities, environmental advocates, and other stakeholders, particularly regarding the potential impact on the Quinnipiac River corridor and its wildlife. I further urge Amazon to hold public informational meetings in each of the communities within the proposed service area before operations begin.

These meetings should provide residents with a clear understanding of what this operation would look like on a day-to-day basis. In addition to proposed flight paths, frequency, hours of operation, and measures to protect the Quinnipiac River corridor, residents deserve clear answers regarding noise, actual flight altitudes, and privacy. These concerns are not merely hypothetical. Reporting from communities where Prime Air already operates, including Richardson, Texas, has documented resident concerns regarding the



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frequency and noise of flights and the altitude at which drones have operated. Residents should receive detailed information regarding the cameras and sensors used aboard the drones, including what information or imagery is collected, how long it is retained, who may access it, and what protections apply when drones travel over private property. Residents should also understand how the introduction and expansion of drone delivery may affect the employment of delivery drivers.

Finally, Amazon should explain what safeguards are in place to prevent inappropriate or unauthorized deliveries and whether sensitive or secure locations such as schools, residential treatment facilities, and other institutions are eligible to receive drone deliveries.

Sincerely,

Adam Sendroff, Mayor
Town of Hamden

Cc: Acting Commissioner, Emma Cimino