The State of New Hampshire
Department of Transportation

David Rodrigue, P.E.
Commissioner

Susan M. Klasen, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Michelle L. Winters
Deputy Commissioner

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Bureau of Environment
October 13, 2026

Requested Action

Authorize the Department of Transportation (DOT) to make payments to the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), (Vendor #177715) of Chicago, IL, for enrollment in the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (Monarch CCAA). This voluntary enrollment in the Monarch CCAA addresses the conservation needs of the monarch butterfly before it becomes listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. (ESA) and enables the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide assurances to DOT that it will not require implementation of additional conservation measures beyond those in the agreement when the Monarch Butterfly is listed as threatened or endangered. Effective upon Governor and Council approval.

Funds to support this request are available in the following account:

	FY 2027
04-96-96-962015-3032	
Environment Bureau	
046-500464 Gen Consultants Non-Benefit	$13,058.00

Explanation

The monarch butterfly was proposed for listing as a threatened species under the ESA in the Federal Register on December 12, 2024. This proposal included protections tailored to the species' conservation needs, such as increasing milkweed and nectar plant availability, protecting overwintering habitat, and reducing pesticide impacts. As of late 2025, the USFWS moved the monarch butterfly's rulemaking to the long-term action stage, meaning a final decision is not expected for at least another year, and the USFWS continues to emphasize voluntary, locally driven conservation efforts. DOT's current plan is to use conservation mowing and idle land set asides on our adopted acres, with the potential to include targeted herbicide treatments of undesirable vegetation, seeding and planting to restore or create monarch butterfly habitat, and brush removal to promote suitable habitat, to meet our obligations under the Monarch CCAA.

Enrollment in the Monarch CCAA allows DOT to avoid last minute disruptions and costly delays to construction projects and maintenance activities. Without participation in the Monarch CCAA, when the monarch butterfly is listed as threatened or endangered, DOT would suddenly be required to conduct project-specific consultations with USFWS on all federally funded projects, and for all federal permits that could affect the monarch butterfly. DOT would need to consider if permits would be needed for non-federal actions as well, like mowing highway rights-of-way. Participation in the Monarch CCAA demonstrates that DOT is already having a net benefit on conserving monarch butterflies across the lands we manage and gives assurances that no additional regulatory requirements will be imposed by USFWS for our enrolled lands.

Since 2020, the UIC has been the official administrator of the Monarch CCAA, a first-of-its-kind voluntary conservation agreement between USFWS and non-federal landowners. UIC developed this agreement in collaboration with the UIC Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group, energy companies, transportation agencies, and other stakeholders. Regionally, Connecticut DOT, Massachusetts DOT, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation have also enrolled in the Monarch CCAA. Funds deposited into the Monarch CCAA account are used to help fund habitat restoration, monitoring, and compliance activities on lands throughout the range of the monarch butterfly.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



David M. Rodrigue, P.E.
Commissioner

Attachments

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Energy Resources Center (MC 156)
1309 South Halsted
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7022
www.erc.uic.edu

INVOICE

Date	Invoice #
7/10/2026	NHT2026-01

Bill To
Rebecca Martin New Hampshire Department of Transportation 7 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03302

Item	Description	Amount
	2026 Year 1 Administrative Fee payment for enrollment in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly as calculated in the attached spreadsheet. Service date: 7/10/2026 - 7/9/2027	$13,058.00
	Balance Due	**$13,058.00**

Please remit payment to:

Board of Trustees
University of Illinois
c/o Energy Resources Center
1309 S. Halsted St., MC 156
Chicago, IL 60607