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Agency of Natural Resources

January 13, 2022

Project Review Committee
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

Dear Project Review Committee,

I am writing in support of Trout Unlimited's application to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to partially fund strategic wood addition (SWA) and a culvert replacement on Box Cover Brook in Somerset, VT.

Box Cover Brook supports a wild, self-sustaining population of brook trout despite the channel having been heavily modified and straightened due to past railroad activities. The stream meets the criteria outlined in the *Vermont Strategic Wood Addition Handbook* that indicate where SWA would be effective including stream width, slope, and existing natural wood recruitment levels. SWA in this area would restore habitat complexity and increase the carrying capacity of the stream for wild brook trout. Replacement of the culvert at the lower portion of this stream would allow brook trout displaced downstream toward Somerset Reservoir to move back into the brook.

We continue to support Trout Unlimited's efforts to reconnect and enhance high-quality habitat throughout Vermont and encourage other organizations to support this work as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Simard".

Lee Simard
Fisheries Biologist
VFWD Trout Team Chair
Vermont EBJTV Representative

