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Testimony of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut Re: HB 5249 AA To Require Environmental Impact Statements Prior to the Conveyance of State Land to a Municipality

For the Committee on Government Administration & Elections March 15, 2007

Rivers Alliance is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

Dear Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Caruso, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut thanks the Committee for raising this important bill, and for the leadership you have shown on this issue.

Year by year, high-quality water resources become ever more valuable for environmental and societal benefits. There is no single greater protection for water quality than open space, especially wooded open space. The property need not be spectacularly beautiful or otherwise obviously special in order to be ecologically important. The property need not even be large. Very small properties can play key roles in protecting wildlife corridors, public access to rivers, and so on.

As a matter of fairness and prudent government we urge the committee to help us pass this bill. (It came within a few minutes of making it through last year.) Taxpayers of Connecticut maintain state properties, and it is appropriate that they be given notice and a chance to comment before losing ownership.

Rivers Alliance is a proud member of the CEPA Working Group. We all look forward to working with you to support this much-needed improvement in the process for giving up ownership of state land.

Thank you,


Margaret Miner,
Executive Director

A tax-exempt
organization under
501 (c) (3) of the
Internal Revenue
Code