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**Testimony on
HB5485 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR FLOOD CONTROL
PROJECTS IN BRIDGEPORT
February 5, 2009**

Asst. Majority Leader Rep. Jack Hennessy
Rep. Kim Fawcett
Rep. Kevin Ryan
House Democrat Office

We moved into our home in March of 1996. Over the years we have watched our property go down in value. Part of our driveway, which abuts the river that goes through our property, has caved in and my husband made a rose garden out of it. Recently, we have seen more and more deterioration due to water damage. This has been to both inside and outside our home. We have written letters in the past as to the damage sustained from routine rainstorms and flooding.

In recent years, and 2008 in particular, we have seen more rapid deterioration to our driveway and underneath it. It is now February 2009. We awoke one morning in November of 2008 after a night of torrential rain, to find a 2-foot in diameter sinkhole in our driveway right near the brook. Two weeks later three more sink holes appeared back near the garage. One of them was found when my husband stepped into it up to his thigh, while trying to remove debris from the raging waters so it doesn't back up. He is 69 years old and suffers from degenerative disc disease, so this is not an easy task for him. I fear him losing his balance and falling in when the waters are raging. It is a thunderous noise. I would never hear him.

We recently had the City of Bridgeport Tax Assessor's Office come out to assess our property so that we could possibly have our real estate taxes lowered. Since their visit, we are now developing yet another sinkhole right where we park our cars. From the looks of our driveway this one is much larger and is cracking the

asphalt in the driveway and is also much closer to our home. When the spring rains come, and they will, and the ice and snow melt, I am afraid of what will happen to our home and driveway. Underneath the driveway has lost much of its foundation. It is just a matter of time before we see even more sinkholes. What is going to be next? Our car going into a sinkhole.. or maybe our home? We can't wait any longer.

The Army Corps of Engineers has also been out to survey the damage (this was before the sinkholes) the summer of 2008. We are still waiting for some kind of solution. From my understanding, we need a permit to have any work done. The city will not give us one until the Army Corps of Engineers evaluates everyone's property. There are a lot of curves, some narrow areas and others that are wide. They also have to survey all of the properties so the walls of the brook will conform to a certain width and be straightened to avoid the water from backing up into any ONE area.

This is the fourth time this has been brought to the table. It is an ongoing problem and only getting worse. We would really appreciate some HELP with this. What do we do....?

Regards,

Kathryn Lasky