



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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February 6, 2009  
Committee on Environment  
Testimony for HB – 6121

To The Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members:

I offer this testimony on behalf of *An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For Emergency Repairs To The Lyman Viaduct.*

This viaduct supports a pipeline carrying wastewater along the scenic Air Line Trail from Hebron, through Colchester and to a treatment facility in East Hampton. The pipeline is buried beneath the trail's railroad right-of-way designed for hiking, cycling and other recreational activities.

Funds were secured in 2005 for the Department of Environmental Protection to maintain the pipeline and perform erosion control on the viaduct slope. Additional funding is now needed to complete the repairs. The twin culvert's two massive wing wall supports are listing, and there is a 12-foot void at the centerline under the viaduct. If it does not get filled in, the entire structure will eventually tilt forward and compromise the integrity of the pipeline. A failure of the pipeline would send 1,200 gallons of sewage per minute into Dickinson Creek and then the Salmon River, jeopardizing the environment and threatening public health.

Included with my testimony are Colchester's meeting minutes regarding the rehabilitation of the Lyman Viaduct culvert. I urge your support on this vital project, and I thank you for your consideration.

Linda Orange  
Deputy Speaker of the House