

**WHEATON B. BYERS**

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**TO MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

I am writing in support of HB05427 . With certain exceptions, this bill will limit the withdrawal of more than 20,000 gallons of water per day from waters with an upstream drainage area of three square miles or less in the Highlands Region.

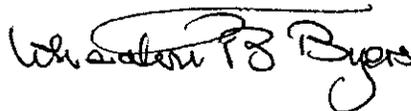
In various stages of development for Connecticut's Northwest corner are plans for the conservation of natural resources, cleaning up the Housatonic River, removing a dam on the Blackberry River to improve stream flow and protecting the waters of tributary streams like the Whiting River a class A trout stream. At least two of the Whiting River tributaries, Hollow Brook and Ginger Creek, are cool mountain streams which permit the spawning of Brook trout.

Regional efforts of this size and complexity are slow, time consuming and require the working relationships of professionals with competence in the fields of hydrology , geology forestry, grasslands, fisheries agriculture and others.

The author of this bill has a history of conservation interest and of accomplishment. She has been parochially and unjustifiably criticized for offering a significant conservation measure which initially at least impacts a region outside her political area of responsibility. Just like the cement plant on the Hudson River.

For purely local matters volunteer organizations have the ability and competence to handle them. However, more complex issues or proposals which involve regional interests or multiple political jurisdictions are beyond the capacity of volunteer committees who meet only monthly. For such occasions what is required is a regionally available body of experts, similar to Landmark, who can offer a professional comprehensive body of opinions and observations as a basis for informed decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wheaton B. Byers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.