



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – February 23, 2009
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Gina McCarthy
Department of Environment Protection

Proposed Senate Bill 271 - AN ACT CONCERNING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND MILL PROPERTIES

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Bill No. - 271 AN ACT CONCERNING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND MILL PROPERTIES. The Department does not support this bill which would amend the Flood Management Act (the "Act") sections 25-68b through 25-68n of the general statutes.

The proposed amendment to the Act would limit the Department's ability to regulate state-funded development within floodplains by deferring those projects to the less restrictive federal standards. Such an approach would set back the Department's policies and procedures regulating development on our floodplains to a time approximately 25 years ago, and would have a negative effect on public health and safety.

The Department's programs which regulate floodplain development are designed to assure adequate safety for our citizens, and our stricter standards continue to accomplish those ends. We need to be reminded of the dangers that come along with improper management of our floodplains. Image a flood disaster similar to what happened in 1982 here in Connecticut. As a result of the lessons learned from that flood event, we have developed stricter standards than those required by federal policy. These standards are appropriate for Connecticut. Therefore, the Department opposes this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert La France, at 424-3401.