

PROPOSED S.B. No. 586 – An Act Concerning a Collinsville
Hydro-electric Facility Testimony of the Town of Avon

The Town of Avon supports the intent of S.B. No. 586 an Act Concerning a Collinsville Hydro-electric facility and offers the following comments and recommendations:

The Avon Town Council supports the Town of Canton's proactive approach to refurbishing the existing generators located at the Upper Collinsville Dam and the Lower Collinsville Dam. The upper dam is located in Canton, and the lower dam is located in Avon, and Burlington. The refurbishment of the two facilities will generate service to approximately 1500 homes among the three towns.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a preliminary license on January 8, 2009 to the Town of Canton for this project. The Town of Canton, Avon and Burlington have the support of Congressman Chris Murphy to introduce legislation that will expedite the issuing of a final license.

The Avon Town Council supports the Town of Canton's request that legislation be enacted this session to:

- 1) Require that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection execute an agreement without any compensation to the State of Connecticut or additional costs to the towns of Canton, Avon and Burlington for use or liability to the Towns of Canton, Avon and Burlington that allows the Town of (1) enter upon and conduct physical examinations and studies of the Upper and Lower Collinsville dams and associated structures, including but not limited to power houses and/or gate houses on the Farmington River for determining the feasibility of using the dams and associated structures for hydroelectric generations; (2) install, operate and maintain hydroelectric generating facilities and associated appurtenances including fish ladders at the dams and (3) exercise flow control of the water at the dams to maximize hydroelectric generation while maintaining minimum flows required by federal and state regulatory agencies.
- 2) Request funding of ten million dollars to the Towns for the capitalization of the Collinsville Hydro-electric project.