



Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

BOARD

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HEARING, MARCH 12, 2010

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Eric Hammerling
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Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

DIRECTORS

William Anthony

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the following bills:

S.B. No. 383 AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE WATER USE PLAN.

The creation of a statewide water allocation plan has been the Holy Grail of Connecticut water planning for at least twenty years. Unfortunately, the effort seems especially likely to fail this year because the agencies in charge have even less money than in the past. The Water Planning Council has essentially stopped working on this issue. The only impetus that might revive attention is the stream flow regulation proposed by the DEP. It might seem logical to delay consideration of flow standards until a plan is in place, but, in fact, without a spur, the status quo will rule. And the status quo is unsustainable water use. The proposed flow regulation serves as a key piece in the overall picture, and it is a start. That said, Rivers Alliance would be pleased to work with the Committee to find some means to re-start work on water allocation. I suspect it would have to be done with federal funds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret Miner

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Rose Guimaraes

PROGRAM

Rose Guimaraes
Amanda Branson

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Tony Mitchell

S.B. No. 386 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO WATER USE, PLANNING AND PROTECTION.

The goal of coordination of water management entities is widely popular among all stakeholders. In fact, many of us have advocated for integration of water management. I believe that the recommendations in this Bill are actually mostly required by statute and certainly are often followed in practice. We would oppose any retroactive reform used to block the process in place for the streamflow regulation, but would be happy to work on forward-looking management reforms.

A tax-exempt
organization under
501 (c) (3) of the
Internal Revenue
Code

H.B. No. 5418 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES. This bill might roll back the protections the General Assembly has put in place to keep pesticides away

from kids. Rivers Alliance opposes all primarily cosmetic uses of pesticides and nutrients. These substances degrade state waters and harm aquatic life. IPM may be an improvement in some situations, but state facilities can save money and improve health by going natural.

Finally, a general comment. Rivers Alliance has been lucky to work this year with what is called the Green Jobs Coalition. We support the legislation associated with that group, including ample funding for the Clean Water Fund and municipal sewage-treatment projects; incentives for renewable energy projects; healthy farms; funding to preserve the Sound and open space; funding for efficient public transportation; improved forest management, and so forth. Continuing to invest in our environmental assets is prerequisite for a healthy and profitable recovery from the present recession.

We thank the Committee for leading the way toward these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Miner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Margaret Miner
Executive Director