



State of Connecticut
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DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

HB-5477, AAC *The Clean Water Act and Stream Flow Regulations*
Testimony for the Public Health Committee
March 12, 2010

To The Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of House Bill 5477.

Compliance with current stream flow standards and regulations - as passed under PA 05-142 - has become onerous and potentially expensive to municipalities. The original legislation deserves re-examination through the lens of our present day fiscal realities, striking an appropriate balance between environmental protection and economic development.

House Bill 5477 will require several agencies of cognizance to review these proposed stream flow regulations. The Department of Environmental Protection would be required to complete a study of river basins, identifying those with impaired stream flows and establishing compliance priorities. The Department of Public Utility Control would have to examine the costs that will be imposed on water companies and their customers. Finally, the Department of Public Health would be authorized to determine if the regulations jeopardize the ability of public water suppliers to meet their obligations in maintaining a safe and available yield.

The proposed regulations under PA 05-142 could have a long-term financial impact on our municipalities, and create budgetary uncertainties. There also exists the question of whether these regulations will challenge towns' ability to maintain sufficient water supplies to support business growth. The ideas put forward in HB-5477 should significantly address these questions, and I am pleased to offer my support for it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Linda Orange
Deputy Speaker of the House

