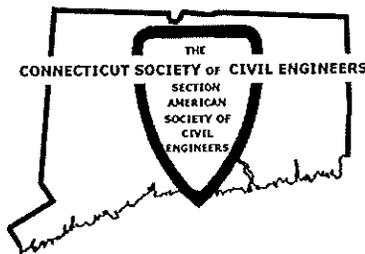


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Testimony Submitted to: Committee on Environment

Public Hearing Date: Friday, March 12, 2010

Subject: Raised Bill No. 388
An Act Concerning Connecticut's Economic and Environmental Future

CSCE Position: Supports

The Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) respectfully offers this testimony to the Committee on Environment expressing our full support for Raised Bill No. 388 "An Act Concerning Connecticut's Economic and Environmental Future". CSCE supports Raised Bill No. 388 due to its commitment toward providing additional funding for Connecticut's water, sewer and drainage systems. By increasing investment into the Clear Water Fund, R.B. No. 388 would enable more water infrastructure capital projects to be initiated; leading to safer drinking water, a cleaner environment, and improved quality of life. The increased commitment to our water infrastructure proposed by R.B. 388 provides benefits to the economy by helping create quality, high-paying jobs for civil engineers, environmental professionals, and supporting construction trades.

CSCE reminds members of the Committee, and the general public, that many of our State's water, sewer, and drainage systems were built as much as 100 years ago, and have had little maintenance or improvements made in the time since. Due to generations of inadequate funding, many of these systems are in desperate need of attention. The additional investment in our water infrastructure supported by R.B. 388 is a first step in addressing the deteriorated condition of these systems. However, we all must remember that the investments supported by R.B. 388 represent only a small percentage of the overall financial commitment that is needed to fully address the deficiencies in our water infrastructure. CSCE hopes that passage of R.B. 388 will be that first step.

CSCE invites members of the Committee and the public to please tune into Connecticut Public Television on Sunday March 28th at 1:00 pm for the airing of the 90-minute program "*Liquid Assets – The Story of our Water Infrastructure*". CSCE is sponsoring this program in support of our 125th Anniversary. This program was developed to explain to the general public and our legislators about the current status of our water systems, including drinking water, storm water management, and sanitary sewers.

ASCE, founded in 1852, is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization representing more than 147,000 civil engineers worldwide and 1,650 in Connecticut. Our members are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering and work in private practice, government, industry and academia. ASCE is a 501(c) (3) non-profit educational and professional society. CSCE is a 100% volunteer organization.