

7 March 2011

Testimony in support of sections 9 & 10 of SB 1006 – An Act Increasing Certain Bond Authorizations for Capital Improvements

Introduced by: Environment Committee

To Whom it May Concern,

As Director of the Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative, I support passage of sections 9 & 10 of SB 1006 – An Act Increasing Certain Bond Authorizations for Capital Improvements.

Throughout the past twenty-four hours heavy rains have drenched New England. Many residents of the state may have experienced flooded basements – or worse yet sewage back-ups into their basements. Stormwater and sewage will also have poured into small tributaries throughout the state. These contaminated waters will pollute Connecticut's major rivers that provide freshwater to the Long Island Sound.

The Clean Water Fund is needed to repair our aging sewer and water infrastructure that is essential to quality of life across the state. Since 2004, I have been on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the MDC Clean Water Project. The District overlaps the Park Watershed. Over 25 combined sewer outfalls overflow into the Park River and its tributaries. The Clean Water Project project is needed to repair Hartford's sewer system, parts of which were developed over 100 years ago. Given that major advances in mobile phone and automobiles happen every few years, it is reasonable to assume that the state needs to re-invest periodically in the state's infrastructure. Investment in the Clean Water Fund creates jobs, and healthy natural environments that are vital to the fishing industry, increase property values and support recreational activities, all of which contribute to the state's economy and high standard of living.

The maintenance and management of Connecticut's water quality is an essential public investment, which is why it is worthwhile to pass **sections 9 & 10 of SB 1006 – An Act Increasing Certain Bond Authorizations for Capital Improvements.**

Thank you.

Testimony submitted by:

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