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Testimony of  
Representative Matthew Lesser, 100<sup>th</sup> District  
March 2, 2011

In Support of SB 764, An Act Concerning the Mattabassett Wastewater Treatment  
District

Good morning Representative Gentile, Senator Cassano, honorable Ranking Members Fasano and Aman and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I wish to testify in support of SB 764, An Act Concerning the Mattabassett Wastewater Treatment District

I want to thank the Committee for hearing this bill. At a time when the Governor and this committee are supporting regional approaches to solving problems, this bill is a win-win.

Nearly half a century ago, city leaders in Middletown made a tragic mistake when they decided to go it alone on water pollution control, rather than joining the Mattabassett District.

Correcting this mistake would allow Middletown to demolish its own water pollution control facility, fulfilling a dream of city leaders to open up a stretch of the Connecticut River. This would allow for economic development at a crucial time.

In addition, this bill would provide savings to sewerage ratepayers in Berlin, Cromwell and New Britain who are facing a considerable expense in upgrading their facility to improve water quality. As a full member of the District, Middletown would assume a portion of the costs.

My understanding is that the City of Middletown, under the leadership of Water & Sewer Director Guy Russo, and the Mattabassett District have negotiated a preliminary agreement on regionalism.

I am excited by this development and urge the support of this committee for this commonsense bill that will deliver economic and environmental benefits to the region.