



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH B. RITTER  
THIRTY EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 3004  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (860) 444-1700  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267

E-MAIL: Elizabeth.Ritter@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
HB 5581 AN ACT PROVIDING STATE AID TO A MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH A STATE-OPERATED  
SEXUAL OFFENDER TREATMENT FACILITY IS LOCATED  
March 2, 2011

Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, and the members of the Committee on Planning and Development. My name is Elizabeth Ritter and I represent the 38<sup>th</sup> House District which includes the Towns of Montville and Waterford. I am testifying in support of HB 5581 AN ACT PROVIDING STATE AID TO A MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH A STATE-OPERATED SEXUAL OFFENDER TREATMENT FACILITY IS LOCATED.

Thank you for taking up this bill. The bill provides that any municipality where a state-operated treatment facility for sexual offenders is located become eligible for a grant in lieu of taxes and that the grant be based on an amount equal to two hundred percent of the property taxes that would have been paid in that year by a private party. The intent is to treat the host municipality on a fair and equal basis as other municipalities where state facilities are located.

The state has a long list of facilities for which grants are provided to host municipalities, and inclusion of this type of facility is a logical and consistent step. The increased basis for the grant is equally logical. No municipality seeks such a facility, and the state has yet to provide a fair and defensible siting process for such facility. The public is fearful, deeply concerned, and adamant in its opposition. The potential for increased public service demands on the host town is huge and disproportionate to other qualifying institutions like parks and state offices. The impact to municipal taxes will not be restricted to the property taxes of the facility but will extend beyond to surrounding properties. This proposal is fair and balanced.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available at any time for your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Ritter".

Representative Betsy Ritter  
38<sup>th</sup> District