



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO
MAYOR

TESTIMONY TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MARCH 2, 2011

This testimony is being submitted by Guy P. Russo, Director of Water and Sewer Department on behalf of Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano of the City of Middletown, Council Majority Leader Thomas J. Serra, and Council Minority Leader Philip J. Pessina.

The City of Middletown **strongly supports** Senate Bill 764 an Act Concerning the Mattabassett Wastewater Treatment District. The City of Middletown has been actively engaged with the Mattabassett District since February 1995 to affect a regionalization of the two area treatment plants.

Beginning in February 1995, the City of Middletown approached the Mattabassett District regarding a consolidation of treatment facilities. Since that time, working cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Middletown has completed a Feasibility Study, regarding the regionalization effort, which originally included the towns of Plainville and Portland, whose participation was deemed to be uneconomic. Subsequently, the City of Middletown, again working cooperatively with the DEP and the Mattabassett District, completed a Facility Plan. The Facility Plan looked forward for the next twenty-year planning period for Middletown flows and for

the cost of treatment. The results of that City-wide Facility Plan indicated that the best option for the City of Middletown was a regionalization with the Mattabassett District. Additionally, the plan revealed that the economics of treatment were also improved to the municipalities of the Mattabassett District.

During this time, the City of Middletown, with State assistance, also completed the Connecticut River Interceptor Sewer Project (CRISP). The CRISP project sought to regionalize facilities within the City of Middletown. Working cooperatively with OPM and DEP, the City of Middletown has been successful in consolidating flow to its own treatment plant and closing ageing facilities at both the Connecticut Valley Hospital, at a savings to the State of Connecticut, and to the Pratt & Whitney facility in Middletown. This interceptor line will also serve other business interests within the area including the new Kleen Energy Project scheduled to come on line this year. This is noted to demonstrate the City of Middletown's willingness to engage in regional efforts that both increase the opportunities for development within the State, and also to minimize treatment costs and consolidate flows in the most environmentally responsible, economic, and efficient ways possible.

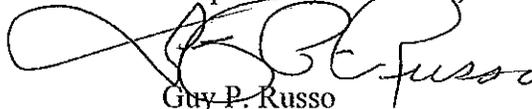
Approximately, eight-years ago, the City of Middletown and the Mattabassett District began earnest discussions over contractual matters that would lead to regionalization. During that time, negotiations have gone in "fits and starts" through various mayoral administrations, and through two chairmen of the Mattabassett District. These efforts were not leading to any expedited resolution on this very important matter. At the behest of DEP Commissioner Marella, we were asked if a mediator might assist

the parties to reach conclusion. In February of 2010, a mediator was brought in, with the assistance of EPA Region I, to assist the parties. We are happy to report that as of December of 2010 that the parties have reached substantial agreement on all issues, both financial and governance; which leads us to the Senate Bill before you today.

The City of Middletown has been actively pursuing this regionalization effort, through its various administrative stages, for just over sixteen-years, and now finds the parties on the precipice of an agreement that will profoundly change the economics to the participating towns in a favorable manner, and will also open areas of the riverfront in Middletown for public recreation and enjoyment; this is an asset that will inure to the benefit of the entire State of Connecticut, not only Middletown and not only the participating towns within the district.

On behalf of the City of Middletown and all of those who have worked so diligently over these past sixteen-years, we asked for your support and your continued efforts to bring this very important project to Central Connecticut to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy P. Russo", written over a horizontal line.

Guy P. Russo
Director of Water & Sewer Department

On behalf of:
Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano
Majority Leader Thomas J. Serra
Minority Leader Philip J. Pessina
City of Middletown