Rivers Alliance
of Connecticut

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 22, 2012

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Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

We offer brief testimony on the following bills, in the order in which they are listed in the online agenda for today's public hearing

S.B. No. 88 (RAISED) AAC THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW OF A SEWAGE SPILL.
We support this bill, which responds to the need of the general public and science researchers to have prompt access to information relating to health and safety. We believe the bill will inspire a more effective investment in sewage treatment.

S.B. No. 89 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.
We support this bill because our members tell us that they have to haul mattresses out of rivers during cleanups. River beds can do without mattresses.

S.B. No. 92 (RAISED) AAC THE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION OF UNUSED MEDICATION.
We have worked on this issue in the past, and support the effort to remove unused medicines from the waste stream. There are more than enough used ones entering waters in the natural manner.

H.B. No. 5128 (RAISED) AAC CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STATUTES.
We support the concept of this act to adjust to changing conditions along shorelines. This is a painful process, but we can do it in an orderly way or do it in chaos and crisis.

H.B. No. 5129 (RAISED) AAC THE REGULATION OF CERTAIN LOW EMISSION VEHICLES, IONIZING RADIATION AND STREAM CHANNEL ENCROACHMENT LINES BY CT DEEP.
We oppose removing the stream channel encroachment program. At this time, the state does not have an effective program for protecting streams and stream corridors under changing climate and changing economic conditions. This program is a valuable tool for avoiding adverse effects on the state waters.

Sincerely and with thanks for your work, Margaret Miner, Executive Director

Margaret Miner

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