



# Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

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TO: Senator Steve Cassano, Representative Linda Gentile,  
and Members of the Planning and Development Committee  
FROM: Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
DATE: March 16, 2012, Public Hearing

**RE: BILL 5492**

## ***AA PROVIDING MUNICIPAL STORMWATER AUTHORITIES WITH CERTAIN CORPORATE POWERS.***

*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 500 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.*

Since approximately the year 2000, the state has been trying to find new ways to protect valuable waters (and lands) from the effects of stormwater runoff and snow melt. This often dirty runoff is the leading cause of water contamination in the Northeast. Under the Clean Water Act Phase II, larger municipalities in Connecticut were required to take certain steps to improve stormwater management. Nevertheless, as we can all see when rivers of water rush downhill and floods rise and recede, we haven't solved the problem. It's a mess, and we don't even see the half of it that's under water.

Stormwater utilities or authorities in some form or other are probably necessary and inevitable. If this bill goes forward, we would be pleased to help with developing the concept. As stormwater management becomes increasingly expensive for towns, readiness to consider new approaches will also increase.

Thank you for the hard work you do here.

Margaret Miner,  
Executive Director

A tax-exempt  
organization under  
501 (c) (3) of the  
Internal Revenue  
Code