



**Testimony**

**Bart Russell, Executive Director**

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**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**

**Before the Planning & Development Committee**

**March 21, 2012**

**RE: SUPPORT WITH REVISIONS – SB-440, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AMOUNTS IN THE CLEAN WATER FUND TO BE USED FOR PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-440, which will render **phosphorous removal eligible for Clean Water Funds**. However, in view of the significant costs associated with complying with the proposed phosphorous discharge limits, SB-440 should be amended to address these concerns.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's efforts to implement EPA's phosphorous removal requirements are onerous and will impose outrageous costs on a number of municipalities, including several small towns. It is our understanding that other states are reviewing more reasonable compliance alternatives based on sound science, including modeling, that has not yet been undertaken in Connecticut.

**We therefore urge lawmakers to assist us by directing DEEP to work with stakeholders and collaborate on a more workable approach that will achieve the goals sought by EPA without breaking the banks of our small towns affected by this issue.**