

Testimony on behalf of Raised Bill No. 5492
An Act Providing Municipal Stormwater Authorities
with Certain Corporate Powers

Good Morning. My name is Kristin Havrilla Clarke and I am the Director of Development and Planning for the City of New London. The City is in support of the changes to the Municipal Stormwater Authorities' legislation, which provides for effective collection of the fees established. This bill is an amendment to Act 07-154, "An Act Concerning A Municipal Stormwater Authority Pilot Program, Special Services Districts, Clean Water Fund Disbursements and the Definition of Unimproved Land for Tax Purposes."

Where Act 07-154 enabled the creation of a pilot Stormwater Authority program for New London, New Haven & Norwalk, Raised Bill No. 5492 will allow these municipalities to take the next logical step and begin the process of establishing a Stormwater Authority.

The Act currently does not provide for a procedure for collection of the fees assessed by the Stormwater Authority. The revised language in this bill provides that charges due to the Authority that are not paid within 30 days become delinquent and bear interest from the due date at the rate and manner provided by the General Statutes for delinquent property taxes. Under the revised bill, they would be treated as an equivalent of property tax liens which would give them priority over other liens filed against the property.

That said, the City of New London would like to see a revision to the following section:

Section 1 (5) lines 9 and 10:

This section should be clarified to clearly state that the authority is imposing user fees not a "levy upon the taxable interests in real property."

The City of New London would like to see the Act further expanded to provide that all costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, be the responsibility of the property owner. The citizens of New London should not be required to expend public funds to collect the fees levied under this

Act. Stormwater fees should be treated the same as fees charged under the establishment of a Water and Water Pollution Control Authority. However, the City supports the current amendments to this important legislation for the control of stormwater within the City.

Additionally, the City of New London thinks that the bill should be further amended to address the other changes recommended in Exhibit B of the *Interim Stormwater Pilot Program Report* from 2009.

I thank you for your time and urge you to support Raised Bill 5492.

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