FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE ET AL
MARCH 22, 2013

For the Chairmen, Sen. Toni Harp and Rep. Toni Walker
and Members of the Committee:
RE: Governor's Bill 6536, AAC Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning General Government

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

WHEREAS, The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) performs an invaluable service by monitoring and reporting on the state's progress toward its environmental goals; and

WHEREAS, CEQ responds to any and all complaints and questions from individuals and groups regarding environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, CEQ is probably the most cost-effective entity in state government; and

WHEREAS, the CEQ must remain independent to continue to serve the people of this state;

We the undersigned respectfully urge the Committee to reject the proposal to merge CEQ unto the Office of Government Accountability.

Signed, Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut; Nancy Alderman, Environment and Human Health; Tom Andersen, Connecticut Audubon Society; Julie Belaga, board member, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters; David Brandt, Aspetuck

Land Trust; Jane Brawerman, Connecticut River Conservation District; Louis Burch, Citzens Campaign for the Environment; Catherine Carlson, Naubesatuck Watershed Council; Katchen Coley, member, Steering Committee, Connecticut Land Conservation Council; Tom Crider, Southbury Land Trust; Raul de Brigard, Higganum; Jan de Smet, member, Naubesatuck Watershed Council ; Russ Dirienczo, Roxbury Inland-Wetlands Commission and Town of Roxbury; Anstress Farwell, New Haven Urban Design league; Eileen, Fielding, Farmington River Watershed Council; Bruce Fletcher, board member, Connecticut Federation of Lakes; Betsy Glassman, Litchfield; Herb Gram, Madison; Bob Gregorski, Naugatuck River Watershed Association; Rose Guimaraes, Torrington; Ann Letendre, Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park; Tulay Luciano, member Naubesatuck Watershed Council; Charles McCaughtry, member, Naubesatuck Watershed Council; Amy Paterson, Connecticut Land Conservation Council; Mary Rickel Pelletier, Park Watershed; Quentin Kessel, Storrs-Mansfield; Hugh Rawson, member, Roxbury Conservation Commission; Bruce Rich, Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association; Gail Robinson, Ash Creek Association; Alan Siniscalchi, Connecticut Associations of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions; Lynn Werner, Housatonic Valley Association; Michael Westerfield, Windham Conservation , Open Space, and Agriculture Commission; D. Wheeler, ART FARM; Christopher Zurcher, Environmental Headlines.

Submitted by Rivers Alliance of Connecticut,
Original emails available on request

7 West Street, POB 1797
Litchfield, CT 06759
Tel: 860-361-9349
Fax: 860-361-9341
Cell: 203-788-5161
http://www.riversalliance.org/

Serving all the waters of Connecticut