



CITY OF MERIDEN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Water Pollution Control Facility
226 Evansville Avenue
Meriden, Connecticut 06451
Ph. (203) 630-4261
Fax (203) 630-2191

David P. Lohman
Director of Public Utilities

Dennis Waz, Superintendent Water/Wastewater
Francis Russo, WPCF Manager/Chief Operator

Testimony
Dennis Waz
Public Utilities Superintendent, City of Meriden
Before the
Finance Committee
March 11, 2013

RE: HB-6575 - AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN STATE GRANTS TO TOWNS

I would like to comment in support of the provisions in Section 2 of HB-6575 which increase the percentage of costs that may be eligible for reimbursement under the Clean Water Fund for phosphorus removal projects from 30% to 50%.

Although the City of Meriden is in the process of negotiating permit language with the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) relative to phosphorus reduction, the City will have to invest an additional \$13 million to upgrade the Water Pollution Control Facility and add approximately \$600,000 to the annual operating budget. This places a considerable burden on residents and businesses during a very difficult economic time.

This is particularly troubling for our residents because we may not be eligible for Clean Water Funds based on the point system used by DEEP because we have already received funding for phosphorus reduction. In 2008 when the City of Meriden was upgrading its wastewater treatment plant we were advised to upgrade to the 0.7 mg/l phosphorus limit, which we did. Unfortunately, after the upgrade was completed, Meriden staff, as well as representatives from other plants on the Quinnipiac and Naugatuck Rivers, were invited to the DEEP office and advised that the EPA did not accept the DEP program for phosphorus removal and DEEP therefore developed a new "interim" strategy for phosphorus removal which lowered Meriden's limit from 0.7 to 0.1mg/l.

Given the enormous compliance costs associated with achieving phosphorus limits set by the state, we urge lawmakers to support the language in HB-6575 that would increase the reimbursement level for phosphorus reduction projects from 30% to 50% and also ensure that cities like Meriden that have been subject to ongoing plant upgrades will be eligible for Clean Water Funds under the point system DEEP utilizes to award grants.