



Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association

Dedicated to the pursuit of pure water...

March 4, 2013

Re: Testimony in Favor of Governor's Bill No. 842, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz, and members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Bill No. 842, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes. The Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association (CWPA) supports the levels of Clean Water Fund bonding in this bill.

The CWPA represents over 1,000 water quality professionals who work here in Connecticut to operate, maintain and improve the wastewater treatment plants and other facilities that protect our rivers, streams and Long Island Sound from pollution. The funding in this bill is critical to our fulfilling this important mission. We recently co-sponsored a Legislative Breakfast (February 13th), attended by several of your committee members, to articulate the need for a continued strong level of funding for the DEEP's Clean Water Fund. Importantly, we were joined by a broad coalition of practitioners of the clean water industry and environmental groups, all of whom recognize and agree on the importance of these grants and loans in the continuing campaign to improve Connecticut's waters.

The General Assembly's approval of historic levels of clean water funding for the 2012-13 biennium demonstrates legislators' understanding of the complex issues around sewer and stormwater improvement and the necessity of assisting municipalities with this work, and their commitment to protecting the Sound's water quality and our communities. Please continue this strong support.

While we've made significant progress improving water quality, there is much yet to accomplish, including upgrading aging sewers and treatment infrastructure; removal of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) which impact water quality in our rivers, lakes and Long Island Sound; and abatement of combined sewer overflows which discharge partially treated wastewater from our largest cities every time we get significant rainfalls.

Clean water projects mean jobs! 47 jobs are created for every \$1 million spent on these types of projects. Furthermore, a functioning water infrastructure is needed to support the state's economic vitality, including rehabilitation of some of our abandoned urban areas. This is a smart investment: it is estimated that these funding levels will create or retain between 22,000 and 35,000 Connecticut jobs over the next two years. In addition, improved water quality for Long Island Sound and inland waterways will protect human

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health, maintain property values, make our communities more attractive for tourism, and support healthy fisheries and our shellfish industry.

Please support our environment and our economy. We urge you to support the \$997 million in total Connecticut Clean Water Fund bonding requested by DEEP for the 2014-15 biennium. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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