

Testimony of **Nancy Watson** before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

In Support of

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

Submitted by

Nancy Watson

March 4, 2012

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. **I support** the levels of Clean Water Fund bonding in this bill. The Connecticut Clean Water Fund aids municipalities in essential upgrades to wastewater infrastructure, including sewer separation to remedy combined sewer overflows, and federally-mandated removal of nitrogen and phosphorus. To meet these needs, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has requested \$447 million in General Obligation and Revenue bonding for Fiscal Year 2014, and \$550 million for FY 2015. 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 health, maintain property values, make our communities more attractive for tourism, and support healthy fisheries and our shellfish industry.

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.

As a resident of Greenwich, I have the great gift of being 10 minutes from Greenwich Point. This spectacular park and beach have given me, (a former urbanite) such a deep love and appreciation for our coastal waterways. The thought that we didn't do all we could to preserve the Sound for future generations is beyond tragic. I 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,

Nancy Watson
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