



# *Town of Redding*

100 Hill Road, PO Box 1028  
Redding, Connecticut 06875

Natalie Ketcham  
First Selectman

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February 6, 2013

Honorable D. Bartolomeo  
Chairman Housing Committee

Re: Proposed Bill No. 6121

Dear Senator Bartolomeo,

The Town of Redding wishes to express its strong support for the subject Bill. Our Conservation Commission enforces the provisions of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act in Redding, and is keenly aware of the need to protect the State's drinking water by limiting development within public water supply watersheds.

Approximately 90% of the land area of Redding is located within the watershed areas that supply the Saugatuck, Aspetuck and Hemlocks Reservoirs of Aquarion Water Company. The pristine Saugatuck, Aspetuck and Little Rivers flow through Redding to feed these major waterbodies. We make every effort to preserve and protect these resources, including limiting the density of development whenever possible and, in a number of cases, purchasing prime watershed property for permanent protection. It is very important to note that thousands of Connecticut residents down stream from us, dependent on the public water supply, are the beneficiaries of solid land use planning for Watershed land. This bill protects their interests. We have had first-hand experience with a proposed affordable housing project in Redding that, in our findings and those of outside engineers and advisors, had excessive density and posed a direct threat to the Saugatuck River. We must put an end to these threats.

In closing, we would note that clean water is the State's most important natural asset, now and for the future. Indeed, the State's own Plan of Conservation and Development recognizes this, and Bill No. 6121 is entirely consistent with the recommendations of the State Plan. We applaud the Committee's initiative and the purposes of Proposed Bill #6121, and urge its passage in this Session.

Sincerely,

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Natalie Ketcham  
First Selectman

**cc:#6121-proposed**