



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 13, 2012
Planning and Development Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty

Proposed House Bill No. 5725 – An Act Concerning The State-Wide Phosphorus Reduction Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Proposed House Bill No. 5725 - An Act Concerning the State-Wide Phosphorus Reduction Plan. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP takes no position on this bill because without proposed detailed language the intent of the bill is unclear. However, given that the Legislature passed Public Act 12-155 last year which sets forth a process that is underway, additional legislation appears to be unnecessary.

Section 1 of PA 12-155 requires a collaborative process between the Commissioner DEEP and the chief elected officials of the Danbury, Meriden, Water, Cheshire, Southington, Wallingford and other interested chief elected officials. The Public Act set forth four areas for evaluation and recommendations.

As the first step in this collaborative process, the DEEP held two well attended public meetings. The purpose of meetings was to establish a common understanding, an information baseline, on which to build further collaborative process. At the November 28, 2012 meeting, DEEP presented an overview of the efforts underway to address phosphorus pollution from nonpoint sources of pollution. At the December 6, 2012 meeting DEEP presented an overview of its proposed approach to measure phosphorus, establish a goal for phosphorus reduction and provide guidance for wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Between the two meetings presentations were made by staff from DEEP, federal Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey. At the end of both meetings, an opportunity for public comments was provided. In addition, written comments were requested to be provided by the end of December. At the request of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, that deadline was extended until January 11, 2013. All of the presented materials, suggestions made at the meeting, and submitted comments are available on our webpage at http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=474130&deepNav_GID=1654

DEEP staff is in the process of reviewing the submitted comments and formulating a straw proposal for review with the participating parties. We are envisioning an appropriate next step as setting up a series of workgroups to focus on the deliverables required under PA 12-155. We anticipate a meeting in March of this year (on a date acceptable to the parties involved) to continue the collaborative process.

Given that the process required by PA 12-155 is well underway, additional legislation is unnecessary at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov