

**Testimony  
Before the Planning & Development Committee  
February 15, 2013**

**Re: HB-5725, An Act Concerning the Statewide Phosphorus Reduction Plan**

I would like to acknowledge the state Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection's role in working with EPA on the statewide phosphorus reduction strategy. I attended the public hearing on December 6<sup>th</sup> and it was good to see DEEP and EPA encouraging municipal involvement and collaboration. The presentations were well prepared and informative.

As an environmentally conscientious resident, fisherman, and outdoorsman there's nothing I would like to see more than reduction in water pollutants in our lakes and streams as well as LIS. But as a taxpayer and municipal Treatment Plant operator I see firsthand the price we pay for clean water. It is imperative that we find a balance between reduction of pollutants and burdening ratepayers and municipalities with the expense of plant upgrades. Furthermore everything possible must be done to ensure that any capital expenditures intended to reduce Phosphorus result in measurable benefits to our State's waters and indigenous species. To this end I support the collaborative framework recommended by HB-5725 and supported by the CT Municipal Nutrient Group and distributed by CCM. As you well know this is an extremely complex issue with many strong opinions and I believe the framework suggested by the CT Municipal Nutrient Group will help meetings move along in a productive manner.

Thank you all again for encouraging input from Municipal stakeholders.

**Mike Ruef  
WPCA Technician/Chief Operator  
Town of Coventry  
860.742.4069 (WWTP)  
860.742.4064 (Town Hall)  
[mruef@coventryct.org](mailto:mruef@coventryct.org)**