



# Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

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TO: Sen. Steve Cassano and Rep. Jason Rojas, Chairmen,  
And the Members of the Planning and Development Committee  
FROM: Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

**RE: Public Hearing**

DATE: March 11, 2013

*Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 500 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.*

**RE**

***SB 963, AA AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS FOR ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS WITH DESIGN FLOWS OF LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND GALLONS PER DAY***

***H.B. No. 5242 AA EXPANDING FEE IN LIEU OF OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS***

We oppose **Bill 963** pending clarification of the site, the types of system, the specific products, the total number of systems, and so forth. Rivers Alliance and numerous colleagues have worked on the policy and science of advanced sewage treatment systems for small flows, as well as certain traditional community systems. In this field, the technology is changing rapidly; ground conditions and hydrology sometimes change as well; appropriate standards and oversight have been problematic. We have published a handbook on ATS (Advanced Treatment Systems) that includes performance records. We would be happy to distribute copies to those interested. It is also on our website [www.riversalliance.org](http://www.riversalliance.org).

We submit testimony from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in opposition to **Bill 5242**. We work with CLCC on preserving open space as the most natural and efficient protection for the state waters. Sidewalks are a great benefit, but are not a substitute for open space conservation.

Thank you, Margaret Miner, Executive Director