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Representative David Zoni
81st District, Serving the people of Southington, CT
Planning & Development Committee
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Chairman Cassano, Chairman Rojas, Vice-Chairwoman Osten, Vice-Chairman Fox, Ranking Members, Senator Fasano and Representative Aman and members of the Planning & Development Committee, my name is David Zoni and I represent the 81st district serving the people of Southington, Connecticut. I respectfully ask for your support on House Bill 5725, An Act Concerning a Statewide Phosphorus Reduction Plan.

As you know, many Connecticut communities are being asked to implement the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (DEEP) plan to reduce phosphorus emissions from their waste treatment facilities. Public Act 12-155, passed by the General Assembly in 2012 and signed by Gov. Malloy, has moved this issue forward in a positive and productive direction.

The reduction of phosphorus from America's waterways is part of the US Environmental Protection Agency's effort to make improvements to our fragile aquatic ecosystems. Some Connecticut communities are being asked to shoulder a disproportional and costly burden to address what clearly is a statewide problem and whose amelioration will certainly produce a statewide benefit.

DEEP's implementation of the "Phosphorus Reduction Strategy for Inland Non-Tidal Waters" affects over 40 Connecticut communities, potentially costing millions in modifications and upgrades to their wastewater treatment facilities. The estimated cost for my community alone is over 18 million dollars.

HB-5725, in conjunction with Public Act 12-155, would aid affected communities by addressing additional issues that surround overall phosphorus reduction efforts. These issues include, but are not limited to, nonpoint source pollution, the development of scientifically based results commensurate with the investment costs associated with compliance, as well as comprehensive strategies for clean water solutions that don't require treatment facilities to implement upgrades on a fragmented basis. Last, but not least, the development of a collaborative model, including a cost-effective strategy that will ensure clean water goals developed by the US EPA can be met without overburdening our municipalities.

Connecticut's affected municipalities, including Southington, truly desire effective and reasonable solutions that will benefit all stakeholders while meeting the goals of the DEEP and the US EPA. I believe HB-5725 along with Public Act 12-155 will move us closer to those goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.