



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Environment Committee  
March 22, 2013**

**RE: HB-6653, An Act Concerning the Department of Energy and Environmental  
Protection Regulatory Streamlining to Assist Municipalities**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **urges lawmakers to reject Section 1 of HB-6653** which imposes an unnecessary layer of review on municipal Water Pollution Control Authorities (WPCAs) by requiring them to submit water pollution control plans developed *for the municipality* to DEEP for its review and written approval. This provision would create delays and additional costs associated with moving forward with a sewerage facility and could be used by DEEP to halt the design and construction of any new facility, undermining economic and community development efforts in our towns and cities.

In addition, the bill requires the plan to be consistent with the state Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The state POCD is developed by the Office of Policy and Management not DEEP. This provision may be construed to give DEEP broad latitude to object to projects based on its interpretation of the POCD.

COST urges lawmakers to **reject Section 1 of HB-6653.**

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.*