

Testimony
Gary Brumback
Town Manager, Town of Southington
Finance Committee
March 11, 2013

RE: HB-6575 - AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN STATE GRANTS TO TOWNS

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in **support of provisions in HB-6575** which includes provisions **to increase the percentage of costs eligible for reimbursement under the Clean Water Fund from 30% to 50% for phosphorus removal.**

Currently, the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is in the process of implementing a “Phosphorus Reduction Strategy for Inland Non-Tidal Waters” which will impact at least 40 municipalities across Connecticut and cost millions of dollars in plant upgrades to comply: *Southington \$18.5 million; Danbury \$25- 30 million; Wallingford \$19 million; Meriden \$13.5 million; Cheshire \$7.2 million* (to cite only a few).

While we understand, through DEEP, that the overall push for Phosphorus reduction is coming from the US Environmental Protection Agency, particular municipalities are being unfairly burdened with addressing a statewide problem of excessive levels in certain water basins.

We are hopeful that DEEP will utilize a collaborative approach and work with stakeholders to develop a statewide phosphorus reduction plan that will 1) reduce non-point source pollution, which may help alleviate the overall pressure on municipal water pollution control authorities; 2) utilize a science-based approach; and 3) develop cost-effective approaches to assist municipalities in achieving compliance with EPA standards.

However, given the staggering compliance costs imposed on particular municipalities, we urge lawmakers to adopt the provisions in HB-6575 which will assist the impacted municipalities in achieving compliance – which will have a statewide benefit - without unfairly burdening residents in the affected municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.