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Testimony on behalf of Proposed Bill 705
An Act Expanding the Powers of Municipal Stormwater Authorities

Good Morning. My name is Kristin Havrilla Clarke and I am the Director of Development and Planning for the City of New London. The City is in support of Proposed Bill 705. This bill is will amend Act 07-154, "An Act Concerning A Municipal Stormwater Authority Pilot Program, Special Services Districts, Clean Water Fund Disbursements and the Definition of Unimproved Land for Tax Purposes."

Where Act 07-154 enabled the creation of a pilot Stormwater Authority program for New London, New Haven & Norwalk, any new legislation should allow these municipalities to take the next logical step and begin the process of establishing a Stormwater Authority.

If this bill moves forward, the City of New London hopes the following will be addressed:

- The inclusion of language that clearly states that a stormwater authority is imposing user fees and not a "levy upon the taxable interests in real property." Stormwater fees should be treated the same as fees charged under the establishment of a Water and Water Pollution Control Authority.
- a procedure for collection of the fees assessed by the Stormwater Authority as well as a means of addressing delinquent bills, such as treating assessed fees as an equivalent of property tax liens which would give them priority over other liens filed against the property. .
- a provision that all costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, be the responsibility of the property owner. The citizens of a municipality should not be required to expend public funds to collect the fees levied.
- the ability to bond for capital improvements to upgrade and maintain stormwater infrastructure to meet the EPA's MS4 requirements
- address the other changes recommended in Exhibit B of the *Interim Stormwater Pilot Program Report* from 2009.

I thank you for your time and urge you to support Proposed Bill 705.

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