

Testimony
Garry Brumback
Town Manager, Town of Southington
Environment Committee
March 7, 2014

RE: HB-5421 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS IN CERTAIN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS.

Wastewater management is clearly an important issue facing municipalities and our citizens.

As you know, 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). We appreciate this committee’s support of HB-5081 which will assist municipalities in meeting these statewide goals.

To address these issues, the Connecticut General Assembly adopted Public Act 12-155, which creates a stakeholder process to examine issues relating to the state’s phosphorus reduction efforts. I serve as Co-Chair of the Coordinating Committee along with DEEP Deputy Commissioner Mackay McCleary.

This process has been helpful in moving forward with productive discussions with DEEP 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 for addressing nutrient issues; and 3) explore more flexible, cost-effective approaches to assist municipalities in achieving compliance with EPA standards.

However, the date to complete the report is October 1, 2014. The stakeholder group has decided to utilize a consultant to assist in examining the various issues relating to the state’s phosphorus reduction plan. This will be an important component of the stakeholder group’s recommendations. The consultant is expected to finalize their report by this summer, which will not provide the stakeholder group with sufficient time to review the findings and complete its work by October 1, 2014.

We therefore respectfully request that Sec. 22a-428a of the general statutes be amended to revise the reporting deadline to October 1, 2015.