

Testimony  
William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor, Town of Wallingford  
Before the  
Finance Committee  
March 13, 2014

**RE: SB-29, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding SB-29, which includes bond authorizations for various purposes, including the Clean Water Fund.

The Town of Wallingford and a number of other municipalities are currently faced with enormous compliance burdens associated with DEEP's proposed permit requirements relative to phosphorous discharge limits.

For Wallingford, Cheshire, Southington and Meriden, the four towns along the Quinnipiac River, compliance with the proposed permit limits would require a total capital investment of approximately \$58 million, a total increase in plant operating costs of \$1.9 million per year and resultant rate increases that would range from 23% to 40% by town. For Wallingford alone the initial capital cost would be \$19 million with a resulting 32% rate increase.

Unfortunately, this means that a handful of communities are shouldering the burden for meeting what is a statewide environmental goal. This penalizes residents in these communities and imposes considerable cost burdens on the town and its ratepayers.

The Town of Wallingford requests that the reimbursement rate for phosphorus reduction projects be **increased to fund 90%** of the cost of plant improvements made necessary by standards that mandate the removal of phosphorus from plant discharges. Sanitary sewer plant construction projects received 90% federal and state funding through the 1990s. High priority was placed on the protection of public health and the environment. Since phosphorus removal is also being given a high priority, it is equally appropriate that municipalities receive the same level of financial support in these very difficult times.

William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor

cc: Town of Wallingford Legislators

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SUBJECT line: **Testimony** from Mayor Dickinson, Wallingford for this morning's hearing re SB-29