



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE ZUPKUS
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Judiciary Committee
Monday, March 17, 2014
Testimony in Support of,
H.B. 5484, An Act Concerning the Claim Against the State for the Town of Cheshire

Honored Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for considering H.B. 5484. I offer the following testimony in favor of this proposal.

Today I testify on behalf of the members of my community who have been charged exorbitant sewer usage bills due to the state prison in Cheshire. Recently, I have spoken to numerous constituents who are outraged upon seeing their bills. Because of the state prison in our town, my community has been unfairly saddled with the expense.

The prison has inundated our small town with disproportionate costs. Many are asking why surrounding towns pay significantly less for sewer usage while Cheshire's bill continues to increase. Indeed, the increases have been outrageous.

It is time for the State of Connecticut to step up to the plate and pay its fair share. On behalf of the residents of Cheshire, I ask that you pass H.B. 5484, An Act Concerning the Claim Against the State for the Town of Cheshire, which is our request to allow a claim submittal to the Claims Commissioner after the time limitations (one year) have lapsed. This bill would allow us to make a claim for the eight years of back billing of \$1,453,607.30 that the State Department of Corrections owes our Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Once again, thank you for your consideration and I ask that you support H.B. 5484 so that the residents of Cheshire are fairly treated.

Lezlye Zupkus, State Representative, 89th District