

TOWN OF



PLAINVILLE

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**Testimony
Robert E. Lee
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Town of Plainville
Environment Committee
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HB- 5081 - AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHOROUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB-5081**.

The Town of Plainville urges lawmakers to **support HB-5081**, which would increase the rate of reimbursement to municipalities for phosphorous removal at sewage treatment plants from 30% to 50%.

Implementing a statewide strategy to reduce phosphorus loading in inland nontidal waters is a top priority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). However, towns such as Plainville – and our residents - are bearing the burden of investing in costly wastewater plant upgrades as part of this statewide strategy. **This new investment comes very shortly after a \$24M upgrade that was recently made at our wastewater treatment plant. Our residents are still coping with the large increase in user fees that were required in order to pay for this recent upgrade.**

Increasing the reimbursement rate will go a long way in assisting the state and our municipalities in meeting Connecticut's environmental and public health goals without imposing a disproportionate financial burden on certain towns and their residents.

On behalf of the Plainville Town Council and the citizens of Plainville, we urge your support for this bill.