



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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February 19, 2014

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I write to you today in support of House Bill 5081, *An Act Concerning Phosphorus Reduction Reimbursements to Municipalities*.

There are several municipalities that are impacted by the new wastewater treatment plant phosphorus effluent discharge limits imposed by CT DEEP, and Danbury is one of these municipalities. These new limits have raised some concern, because of burdening the sewer ratepayers with the expensive capital projects that would be needed to meet these new limits.

In order to meet the DEEP phosphorus removal limits, \$30 million dollars in extensive capital improvements would have to be made to the Danbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. This will not only impact Danbury, but the surrounding towns of Bethel, Brookfield, Newtown, and Ridgefield, because Danbury accepts sewage generated and conveyed from these regional towns at its wastewater treatment plant. With no increase in available grant funding, it will be difficult to acquire the voter support that would be necessary to approve the bond packages for this work.

H.B. 5081 would help lessen the burden of the associated capital costs on the Danbury and Regional sewer ratepayers, help "level the playing field" for all municipalities competing for funds who have similar issues and needs, and would help get the public support needed to approve the bond funding packages required to pay for this work.

It is for the above reasons that I support H.B. 5081.

Thank you for your time and consideration.