



Connecticut Chapter  
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee  
February 27, 2015

Testimony In Support of  
HB 6035 An Act Concerning a Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory and  
a Long Island Sound Blue Plan  
HB 6839 An Act Concerning a Long Island Sound Blue Plan and Resource and Use Inventory.  
HB 5686 an Act Concerning the Approval of Land Swaps.  
HB 6047 An Act Providing Proper Funding for State Hatcheries

In Opposition to  
HB 5709 an Act Concerning the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Authority  
to Designate Additional Stormwater Sewer Systems Outside of Urban Areas.

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer  
Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of  
Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

#### **HB 5686**

Anyone who remembers the contentious Haddam land swap understands we need clear guidance  
about the rules for transferring open space land out of state ownership. Specifically, we need to  
ensure a conveyance is in the public interest, and ensure there is documentation fully justifying  
such a claim. We need, for lands in the custody of DEEP or the Dept. of Agriculture:

- Focus on a process for input and review of all conveyances (not just swaps) proposed by  
the General Assembly
- A requirement for a public hearing before the committee which has oversight over DEEP  
and DoAG
- A layer of oversight by expanding the scope of review for the State Properties Review  
Board.

#### **HB 6035 and HB 6839**

Long Island Sound is, of course, a critically important natural resource for the state. We  
have paid attention to numerous issues, but have not taken a comprehensive look at steps we need  
to take to protect the Sound. Creation of the Blue Plan will do this. The Sierra Club strongly  
supports these bills.

#### **HB 5709**

Stormwater pollution is a significant issue for the state. We have focused on the  
importance of water quality over the past half century, but have more to do, both for fresh water  
and for the Sound. Regulations via permits set necessary and appropriate standards through the

expertise of DEEP. Giving a blanket exemption to one sector from these regulations is very damaging public policy, and will undoubtedly keep us from achieving necessary results. Yet HB 5709 would do exactly that. Ensuring the validity of an agency's regulations are a far better way to achieve our purposes. We understand the financial difficulties of the many, many towns in CT, but this is simply not an effective way to address them.

The Sierra Club strongly recommends a vote against this very damaging bill.

### **HB 6047**

The state fish hatcheries are an important component of our wildlife program. Fishermen rely on them for sport fishing, and they are strong advocates and allies for protection of our water resources.

Given the available money spent on recreation, hatcheries may be able to self-support. So we endorse this bill, but caution that full state funding for hatcheries must be continued until this happens.