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**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT**  
210 MUNICIPAL ROAD, WATERBURY, CT 06708

**Testimony by: Denis Cuevas, General Manager, City of Waterbury Water Pollution Control**

**In Support of HB 5291 AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL PHOSPHOROUS ABATEMENT PROJECTS**

**Before the Environment Committee**

**February 13, 2015**

The City of Waterbury Water Pollution Control Department appreciates the opportunity to testify before the Environment Committee in support of House Bill 5291 which proposes changes for Clean Water Fund projects that are eligible to receive reimbursement to undertake phosphorous removal to or at below two-tenths milligrams per liter effluent discharge.

The State DEEP issued the City's Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) NPDES permit on November 2013 with a compliance schedule to begin meeting a 0.7 mg/l phosphorous limit and begin construction no later than April 1, 2018 to meet a 0.2 mg/l phosphorous limit. In order meet the 0.7 mg/l limit, WPC's operation and maintenance budget has increased by \$690,000 annually. The lower phosphorous limit may require a \$40 million capital improvement which will add to the department's debt and result in a substantial increase to the sewer rates.

The City's WPCF is the fourth largest wastewater treatment facility in the State and the largest facility along the Naugatuck River. This facility serves residents in Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott and parts of Naugatuck, Prospect and Cheshire. As the largest wastewater treatment facility on the Naugatuck River, we provide treatment to an average effluent flow of 21 million gallons a day.

The Water Pollution Control Department has retained an engineering firm to determine the specific type of treatment technology that will best to meet its needs in the terms of technical feasibility, effluent quality, capital and operational costs. The capital investment would include treatment technologies and operational changes reducing the phosphorous limit to 0.2 mg/l which would result in a 94 percent reduction of the total phosphorous load effluent discharge.

The City of Waterbury has demonstrated a commitment to the environment and has shouldered the burden in terms of cost of building and improving the WPCF. The facility improvements related to phosphorous limits, while necessary for the health of the Naugatuck River, will create a financial burden on Waterbury and its rate payers who are still paying the costs associated with the facilities upgrade completed in 2002. In light of the City's bonding needs, debt service and annual budget commitments, the City must seek and rely upon the assistance from the Clean Water Fund to make additional improvements to its WPCF.

The changes incorporated in the bill will ensure facilities in Connecticut with similar phosphorous reduction requirements the same level of funding to institute the necessary improvements.