BOROUGH OF NAUGATUCK

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HB 5291 AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL PHOSPHOROUS ABATEMENT PROJECTS.

"To create a level playing field for all towns undertaking phosphorous reduction efforts by enabling such towns to be treated equally in the award of phosphorous reduction grants from the state."

1. Public Act 14-13 expanded the number of municipalities eligible to receive increased clean water fund grants for phosphorus removal projects by eliminating the eligibility requirement to the first three construction contracts. The requirement that eligible projects must result in levels at or below 0.2 milligrams per liter of effluent discharge remained in the legislation. The Borough of Naugatuck has a phosphorus limit above 0.2 milligrams but must construct significant upgrades to meet its new discharge limit. Naugatuck's estimated cost of the upgrade for phosphorus treatment is approximately $40,000,000. The potential increase in Clean Water Grant to Naugatuck with an increase from 30% to 50% is $8,000,000.

2. The Borough of Naugatuck requests that the requirement that eligible projects must result in levels at or below 0.2 milligrams per liter of effluent discharge be eliminated from the legislation.

3. The Borough of Naugatuck also requests that the requirement in the legislation that contracts be entered into by July 1, 2018 be amended to allow for additional time so that all phosphorus reduction projects can qualify for increase clean water funding.

4. The Borough of Naugatuck supports SB 358, "the delay for five years the mandate on municipalities to reduce phosphorous" The Borough of Naugatuck is in process of Facilities planning for a major waste water treatment plant upgrade. It is estimated the total cost of the project is approximately $85,000,000. The additional time would provide the Borough the time necessary to further study the facility and determine the most cost effective upgrades to the treatment plant. It would also allow the town the opportunity to fully investigate the feasibility of implementing a phosphorus trading program with other communities along the Naugatuck River potentially saving up to $40,000,000

5. The Borough is classified as a "distressed" community; a disproportionate grant schedule further imposes undue stresses on the Borough and its citizens.