



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD**  
**CONNECTICUT**

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TESTIMONY  
William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor, Town of Wallingford  
Before the  
Environment Committee  
February 13, 2015

**RE: H.B. No. 5291 An Act Concerning Reimbursement for Municipal Phosphorus Abatement Projects.**

ATTENTION: Co-Chairmen Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative James Albis

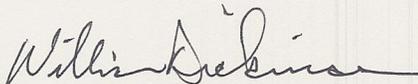
Dear Committee Members:

The Town of Wallingford supports Committee Bill 5291 and its purpose of ensuring that every town required to undertake costly phosphorus reduction projects is eligible for 50% reimbursement by the State of Connecticut. Currently, the Town of Wallingford has been informed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that it is not eligible for state funding. Four Towns on the Quinnipiac River, Wallingford, Cheshire, Southington and Meriden are required to make a total capital investment of an estimated \$58 million. Increases in operating costs of \$1.9 million, and rate increases ranging from 23% to 40% will result. Wallingford's estimated capital cost is \$15 to \$19 million with a 32% rate increase.

The Town of Wallingford and other communities have been notified by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that they are not eligible for the 50% state funding assistance. This proposed legislation corrects what we believe to be an unfair restriction on state financial assistance.

Committee Bill 5291 also seeks to ensure that the collaboration, analysis and scientific review conducted by DEEP and the municipalities as directed by Public Act 12-155 will be implemented to achieve a scientifically based, and fiscally responsible phosphorus discharge reduction program. Given the time and effort required by the collaboration, the financial stress realized by both the State of Connecticut and the municipalities, and the considerable expenditures already funded (Wallingford has expended \$175,498 on interim measures for phosphorus reduction), it is in the interest of all parties to design a statewide phosphorus strategy that is based on the best science available and is cost effective.

We urge approval of this legislation.

  
William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor

cc: Town of Wallingford Legislators