OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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CONNECTICUT

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MAYOR

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TO: Environment Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

FROM: William W. Dickinson, Mayor, Town of Wallingford

Date: February 27, 2015

RE: Testimony - SB 577 – An Act Delaying Implementation of Certain Phosphorous Reduction Grant Criteria for a Period of Five Years

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

The Town of Wallingford does not support SB 577. As drafted, the proposed legislation delays eligibility for state financial assistance for projects designed to reduce the level of phosphorous in state waters. A municipality can be ordered to proceed with a project on, before or after 2018 and not be eligible for funding until 2023.

Municipalities are being confronted with mandates to implement very costly projects. The estimated cost for Wallingford is between $16 and $19 million. This subject needs to have the benefit of further scientific analysis before imposing such costs on our citizens. Please see testimony submitted by Wallingford on February 13, 2015 regarding support for HB 5291, An Act Concerning Reimbursement for Municipal Phosphorous Abatement Projects. We urge an unfavorable report on SB 577.

Sincerely,

William W. Dickinson, Jr.
Mayor

jms
cc: Town of Wallingford Legislators