

SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN WATER FUND

In Support of Sections 64 and 65 of Governor's S.B. 947
AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.

Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

April 6, 2015

Dear Sen. Fonfara, Representative Berger, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

The Clean Water Investment Coalition writes in support of the Clean Water Fund ("CWF") provisions of Governor's S.B. 947, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes. Sections 64 & 65 provide the much needed investment in municipal infrastructure that will improve the state's waters, enable cities and towns to comply with the Clean Water Act, protect public health, and provide substantial benefits to Connecticut's economy.

We would like to thank this committee for its support of the CWF over the past several years. Through your and the administration's efforts, numerous stalled projects throughout the state are now constructed. This bill, which would authorize \$140 M in general obligation bonds and \$238 M in revenue bonds for the biennium, will fund critical water quality projects like combined sewer overflows and degraded sewage treatment facilities and *create or retain between 6,800 and 8,000 direct and indirect jobs* around the state. Furthermore, once completed, these projects will support the struggling shellfishing and tourism industries that rely on the health of Long Island Sound and the wildlife that call it home.

While substantial progress has been made, much work remains. CTDEEP estimates that at least \$5 B over the next 15 years will be needed to adequately meet our sewage infrastructure demands. This includes combined sewer overflow separation, secondary treatment upgrades, small towns have sewer extension, decentralized wastewater treatment, and repair of the older pipes statewide that are disintegrating. Additionally, new issues not originally contemplated when the fund was created have arrived and are in desperate need of financing: phosphorus reductions, stormwater management, and wastewater infrastructure resiliency in light of climate change. The value of a well-financed CWF is clear. Not only do CWF projects restore waters and protect the public, they build economic stability. We ask that you keep Connecticut on track to meet its clean water obligations and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Testimony submitted by Leah Lopez Schmalz, CFE/Save the Sound on behalf of the Clean Water Investment Coalition

The Clean Water Investment Coalition consists of a number of environmental, municipal, construction, engineering, labor, and maritime organizations that support continued funding of the Clean Water Fund in order to promote environmental protection, regulatory compliance, tourism, business, and job growth in Connecticut.

Clean Water Investment Coalition

American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut

Audubon Connecticut

Connecticut Audubon Society

Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Connecticut Construction Industries Association

Connecticut Council of Small Towns

Connecticut Environmental and Utilities Contractors Association

Connecticut Marine Trades Association

Connecticut River Watershed Council

Connecticut State Building Trades Council

Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association

Connecticut Water Works Association

Environment Connecticut

Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority

Housatonic Valley Association

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478

Metropolitan District Commission

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

Save the Sound—
a Program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment

The Nature Conservancy

The Sierra Club

Southern New England Fishermen and Lobstermen Association

Utility Contractors Association of Connecticut