



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Environment Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) represents more than 110 small towns throughout Connecticut.

COST appreciates the opportunity to comment in regarding concerns with **SB- 141 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISION OF DEFINITIONAL, TIMING AND PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES ACT.**

Although COST appreciates the need to streamline agency processes to improve efficiency, we are concerned that SB-141 may open up municipalities to litigation, resulting in significant costs to property taxpayers.

Specifically, Section 5 of the bill adds new language to Section 22a-42 of the Inland and Watercourses Act authorizing legal action against a municipality for “failure to perform its duties pursuant to this section.” The language further authorizes the court to grant temporary or permanent equitable relief and impose conditions on the municipality that the court deems necessary to fulfill the requirements of the act.

Opening up municipalities to liability under this act will result in additional liability insurance costs, legal expenses and potentially costly remedies that will disrupt municipal operations and undermine the delivery of critical services to residents.

COST urges lawmakers to oppose this bill.