

Written Testimony
Robert E. Lee, Town Manager
Town of Plainville
To the
Planning & Development Committee
March 4, 2016

- **HB-5481 - AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

The Town of Plainville is in full support of **HB-5481** which will extend the July 1, 2018 construction contract date for phosphorus abatement projects to July 1, 2020. In addition, the Town of Plainville fully supports the suggested **COST revisions to the bill** regarding the effluent discharge limit set forth in the statute. According to documents provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the “effluent discharge limits” eligible for the 50% grant funding were intended to address the “**Most Expensive**” *Relative Capital Costs*. As such, there were five communities that became eligible for the 50% grant funding, namely Bristol, Meriden, Southington, Danbury and Ridgefield.

In theory, the financial impact to those municipalities would be more significant as compared to the other municipalities. **The reality, however, is simply not true.** Attached is a Memorandum dated February 25, 2016 that was submitted to Representative Elizabeth Boukus and Senator Henri Martin that **clearly demonstrates that the financial impact to Plainville will be more than 60% of the eligible municipalities – namely - Southington, Danbury and Ridgefield.** In addition, the Memorandum clearly shows that **Plainville’s “ability to pay” for these mandated improvements is significantly less than those same three municipalities.**

The Memorandum shows that the “Per Capita Impact” of the phosphorus upgrade to Plainville (\$673) is significantly more than three of the municipalities that are eligible for the 50% funding as well: Meriden (\$223), Danbury (\$299 to \$358), Southington (\$424) (Bristol and Ridgefield unavailable).

Additionally, by almost any measure, Plainville’s “ability to pay” for the upgrade is substantially below those of Southington, Danbury and Ridgefield.

In conclusion, the financial burden to Plainville to make the necessary upgrades to our wastewater treatment plant to comply with our new NPDES Permit limits is significantly more than three of the five municipalities eligible for 50% funding. On behalf of the Plainville Town Council and Plainville taxpayers, I ask for your positive consideration for **HB-5481** and the **revisions to the bill** as suggested by the Council of Small Towns.