



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4038
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-8378
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8500
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-mail: Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of Raised H.B. 5481, ***AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES***

Before the Planning and Development Committee

March 11, 2016

The Town of Wallingford is one of a group of towns on the Quinnipiac River in south central Connecticut and a second group along the Still River in western Connecticut that faces stiff requirements for phosphorus removal from treated municipal sewage. The federal Clean Water Act requires towns remove excess nutrients from sewage effluent to prevent impairment of these waterways. In an effort to assist these municipalities and spur innovative design to accomplish phosphorus removal, our delegations sought to increase the Clean Water grant to 50% for municipalities for the phosphorus removal portion of the upgrade if they pursued it in the near future.

The bill passed, but CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) interpreted eligibility differently than the sponsors intended. We believed the new grant formula would have included Cheshire and Wallingford, but to our surprise CT DEEP excluded these towns from the more generous grant. Raised Bill 5481 will clarify that these towns facing the same phosphorus removal orders will be eligible for the 50% grant if they enter into a contract by 2020. Please support this bill to bring equitable funding to the towns facing this expensive clean water upgrade.

