



P.O. Box 271646  
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26 February 2016

**RE: Park Watershed comments:**

General Assembly's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

Park Watershed is a 501c3 urban-suburban watershed stewardship organization for Park River regional watershed, which stretches east of the Metacomet Ridge through MDC reservoir properties to the Connecticut River. West Hartford, Hartford and Bloomfield as well as parts of Newington, New Britain, Farmington and Wethersfield are within the Park River watershed. Our organizational goal is to improve the water quality and ecosystem health of water courses and water bodies that enhance neighborhood character even within high-density urban development.

We ask that the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to maintain support for environmental programs, especially for clean water projects. We are especially concerned with the fifty-percent decrease in Green Infrastructure funding (\$20M to \$10M; section 148).

- CT DEEP and municipalities are required to limit stormwater pollution and restore the health of the state's waters. Connecticut has a staggering number of streams, rivers, lakes, and harbors that do not meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and cause sick swimmers, unhealthy fish and wildlife, and decrease the quality of life for tax-payers.

- Green Infrastructure, is a variety of landscape design features that captures stormwater run-off from large parking, roadways and rooftops into landscape design features that filter non-point source pollution and recharge ground water. Increases in green infrastructure can substantially reduce the need for expensive expansions of waste water treatment plants – and restore healthy stream flows. Municipalities across America are increasingly utilizing green infrastructure as a cost effective, approach to stormwater management.

- The \$20M funding authorized through the original bond package would implement ready-to-go projects that not only combat stormwater pollution, but can reduce flooding and create more livable communities. Please do not slash it in half!

Mary Rickel Pelletier  
Director of Park Watershed