



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 8, 2018
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

House Bill No. 5360 – AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5360. This bill includes two provisions requested by DEEP.

Section 1

This provision extends the exemption from having to obtain solid waste and wastewater discharge permits to those leaf composting facilities that also add grass clippings to their leaf composting. The addition of grass clippings to leaf composting facilities would be covered by best practices that are already set forth in regulations governing operating conditions for leaf composting facilities. Passage of this provision would avoid the need for any registered municipal or private leaf composting facility from having to obtain a permit to add grass clippings to their operations, saving time and resources for both applicants and the department.

Section 2

DEEP appreciates the Environment Committee's support for addressing the growing risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to Connecticut's wild deer populations by including fallow deer among those for which a game breeder's license is required (CGS section 26-40).

A game breeder's license is currently required of persons who possess, breed, propagate, or sell wild game birds or quadrupeds. Although Sika and white-tailed deer have been included in this requirement as species of Cervids that require a license, fallow deer have not been included. Fallow deer herds have become more common throughout the northeast. Fallow deer, like white-tailed deer, are susceptible to and can transmit a number of potentially harmful diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease, and have been associated with the spread of CWD in states as near as Pennsylvania.

CWD is a transmissible neurological disease of deer and elk that is characterized by loss of body condition, behavioral abnormalities and death. CWD is classified as a transmissible spongiform

encephalopathy and is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep. The infectious agents are mutated proteins called “prions” which are spread via the meat and body fluids of infected animals.

Requiring persons who possess fallow deer to have a game breeder’s license will ensure that DEEP has records on the location and movements of these animals. Such information is needed to enable effective intervention to prevent or react to diseases such as CWD.

If you should require any additional information, please contact Lee Sawyer, DEEP’s legislative liaison, at 860.424.3332 or lee.sawyer@ct.gov.