



Making Great Communities Happen

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

**Testimony regarding SB 342
AN ACT CONCERNING THE THRESHOLD FOR DEEP'S REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE
TREATMENT SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

CCAPA supports this bill. Approximately 40% of Connecticut is not served by public sewer utilities, and any new development in these areas is dependent on the use of private (or community) septic systems. For larger developments, generally more than 5,000 gallons per day (gpd), alternative treatment systems (AT) can be more appropriate wastewater solutions, especially on smaller lots without room for an expansive traditional septic system. The current regulatory burden of having AT systems approved and installed can be excessive – not only in fees, but particularly in time and cost-uncertainty. PA 17-146, Section 30, which changed the review threshold for the Department of Public Health (DPH) for traditional systems to 7,500 gpd was an excellent first start, and this bill proposes to take the next positive step. **In supporting this bill, we also recommend that the DPH be given a stronger directive to establish the AT system review criteria that was originally mandated in 2007 (CGS Sect. 19a-35a), a task that has not yet been undertaken by DPH.**

Increasing the threshold of AT systems size to 7,500 gpd with oversight of the DPH would significantly increase the cost-certainty for developers and communities who are seeking to increase the availability of a wider range of housing options in more rural areas of the state. Larger developments, both residential and commercial, would be empowered, and one of the elements that hamper growth in our smaller communities would be alleviated.

WHO WE ARE

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) has over 420 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities. CCAPA has long been committed to assisting the legislature and State agencies with developing and furthering responsible growth management principles.

CONTACTS

CCAPA Govt. Relations Committee Co-Chairs
Amanda Kennedy, AICP
John Guskowski, AICP
Phone: (860) 889-2324
govrel@ccapa.org

CCAPA President
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Phone: (203) 946-2867
mpiscite@newhavenct.org