

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-109

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN STATE REFUGES

Title: FOR WILDLIFE

Vote Date: 3/22/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/14/2018

File No.: 7

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

Senator Martin Looney

REASONS FOR BILL:

To protect our states water and watershed lands from pollution.

Substitute Language – Amendment A

Includes a portion of the Quinnipiac River in New Haven extending from the Interstate 95 bridge to the Interstate 91 bridge and that portion of the Mill River in New Haven extending from the Interstate 95 bridge to the Interstate 91 bridge as a state, refuge for wildlife in Section 26-106 of the general statutes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Alice Charamut, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy: Supports the increase in fines and fees as long as they are invested in DEEP programs that protect our natural resources and prevent pollution.

Chris Phelps, State Director, Environment Connecticut: DEEP has failed to take action to impose penalties on facilities that routinely violate environmental permits. This bill will assess and strengthen both DEEP's enforcement capacity and the financial penalties assessed for environmental violations

Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Water Works Association: As stewards of the state's water resources we support efforts to protect water and watershed lands from pollution. CWWA respectfully requests to be included in discussions regarding this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Brian Corbino: The insertion of an amendment with no public hearing is a farce and beneath the dignity of this committee. The committee must strike Amendment A from the bill immediately or scrap the bill in its entirety.

Oliver Nettore: The amendment that would eliminate waterfowl hunting on the Quinnipiac and Miller River has been included without any public hearing and consideration from input provided by waterfowl holders.

The committee also received approximately 60 phone calls opposing the amendment.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca, Asst. Clerk

Date: 03/23/2018