FOR THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
February 26, 2018

RE: SB 181  (Support)

AA ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE.

And Honorable Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut’s waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state’s many river groups, and providing education on water stewardship.

Rivers Alliance strongly supports this bill, and we have support similar bills in the past. There is no better protection for the state’s waters than natural open space adjacent to and around a water body. Funding for open space acquisition is difficult to come by these days, and towns are hard pressed to set aside money for land conservation. This bill offers municipalities the opportunity to gain funds for conservation as a fee on a buyer moving into town. Generally, people want to live in places that do invest in clean water, open space, ad clean air. So this approach to funding land and water protection is fair and logical.

We would happy to answer questions and to work with you in support of this bill.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director, rivers@riversalliance.org
West Street, Litchfield, CT  860-361-9349