

Dear Environment Committee member,

Recently there was a spill of over five million gallons of sewage into the Naugatuck River show it is time to strengthen existing laws.

CT has a right to know law, but it needs to be strengthened.

I support H.B. 1530 and applaud your efforts to protect public health. But, I think that the raised bill has a few issues. Some need clarification, and some need inclusion.

EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF SEWAGE SPILL

Sewage spill is currently defined as the “diversion of wastes from any portion of a sewage treatment plant or collection system in this state.” This definition needs to include:

- When the bill speaks of All discharges of untreated/partially treated sewage, it must include combined sewer overflows.
- A definition of “large” sewage spills. These should be treated just like a toxic waste spill: i.e. taken very seriously.

ADD ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE

Why not insist on the use of electronic reporting? It should be required to provide better information about a sewage spill, such as:

- The location and estimated volume of discharge.
- The steps taken to contain the discharge.
- Reasonable public health, safety, or welfare concerns or environmental concerns, as well as precautions that members of the public should take.
- Notification to the public and adjoining municipalities that may be affected.
- A map of sewage spills and combined sewer overflows on DEEP's and DPH's websites, which must be kept up to date.

REQUIRE QUICK REPORTING AND ANNUAL REPORT

Anyone responsible for a sewage spill should be required to report the incident within two hours to DEEP and the Department of Public Health. The public should also be notified within that two hours, for their own health and safety.

DEEP and DPH should be required to post reported information on their websites within five days and compile an annual report that includes total number, volume, and duration of discharges; whether the discharge is untreated or partially treated; and the remedial responses taken to mitigate impacts and avoid further discharges.

Thank-you for making this bill better, for all the citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara DAVID

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