



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Environment Committee

February 23, 2018

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

House Bill HB 5130 – An Act Concerning the Sewage Spill Right-To-Know Act and Expanding Continuing Education Programs for Wastewater Operators

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports House Bill 5130, which would, among other things, establish a time frame and additional methodology for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to notify the public of unanticipated sewage spills. DPH would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

When a sewage spill has the potential to impact a public drinking water supply source, DPH and DEEP work together, and have done so for several years, to provide to the public, including town leaders and local health departments, notification of any such spill. This notification is important for ensuring that a source of public drinking water remains safe and adequate. DPH supports immediate and direct notice to all that may be affected by such a spill, as quick notice will ensure the protection of a public drinking water supply source.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We encourage Committee members to reach out to DPH with any questions.

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