



**For the Environment Committee  
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director  
March 3, 2021**

*Rivers Alliance was formed to fight for sound water policies at the state and federal levels, to provide education on water resources, and to advocate for any person or group striving to protect water. If you want clean, free-flowing and healthy rivers, and high-quality drinking water, Rivers Alliance is here to help.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following raised bill before you today.

**HB 6496 AAC CERTAIN SOIL RELATED INITIATIVES  
SECTIONS 2-5 – SUPPORT**

Thank you for raising this important subject as maintaining soil health does not get enough attention. Everyone is willing to speak up for the trees and speak out against polluting our water (as they should). But dirt? Who cares about dirt?

Yet soil health is fundamentally important for watershed health and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Soils are also the basis for our Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. The Soil Conservation title of the General Statutes (Sec. 22a-314 et seq.) needs to be updated to reflect the actual work of the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation and the Conservation Districts, to expressly provide for soil health, and to task DEEP with recognizing soils and soil health as a resource to be protected.

Thank you again for raising this bill and please pass Sections 2-5.