

Dear Environment Committee member,

While I am guessing that the legislators who represent my district already support these measures, I am writing to voice my support for three bills on your agenda: SB 931, SB 927, and HB 5497 to address and confront pollution on all fronts.

SB 927 helps protect public health from raw sewage discharges and spills. It requires electronic public notification and ongoing updates of all sewage discharges and spills, reporting of all spills that reach surface waters, and posting of signs along affected bodies of water when the waters are unsafe in coordination with DEEP and local public health departments.

HB 5497 allows any municipality to establish a stormwater authority. Stormwater Authorities now exist in 41 states and number around 2000 with more coming online every year. Connecticut has only one, the successful model in New London. CT's list of impaired rivers, lakes, and estuaries is extensive. A primary reason we can't eat the majority of freshwater fish in the state, swim in all its waters, or harvest shellfish at will from the Sound is contaminated runoff. The only way to address this problem is to redirect excessive flow into areas where it will infiltrate back to groundwater, trapping pollutants at or near the surface where they can be periodically removed. Please support a fully transparent process when a Municipal Stormwater Authority is formed.

SB 931 builds on Connecticut's successful history of implementing California's emissions standards for light-duty vehicles. In Connecticut, the transportation sector accounts for approximately 38% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions, and heavy duty vehicles are responsible for disproportionate share of those emissions. Heavy duty vehicles are also major contributors to NOx and fine particulate matter (PM). Cleaning up these emissions is critical for the health of low- and moderate-income populations living along the state's major transportation corridors. This bill directs Connecticut to make a determination of the energy, environmental, and air quality impacts of adopting California medium and heavy duty vehicle standards, and authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to adopt regulations implementing those standards to ensure that Connecticut benefits from cleaner, less polluting vehicles

Together these bills will help ensure a healthy climate and healthy waters.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Sandella

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