



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

**Testimony for the  
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Lucy A. Lucker  
University of Saint Joseph  
March 21, 2022**

On behalf of the University of Saint Joseph, I am submitting testimony in favor of **H.B. 5476: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PARTIAL FEE REDUCTIONS BY MUNICIPAL STORMWATER AUTHORITIES AND THE INCLUSION OF HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS IN SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT GRANT PAYMENTS**, which seeks, in part, to ensure local Stormwater Authorities have a thorough process in place for awarding a fee reduction for properties that invest in limiting or eliminating stormwater runoff. The bill also eliminates the reference to grand list valuation as one of the factors a municipality can consider when determining the Stormwater assessment on a property.

We very much appreciate that the Committee has raised this bill which both incentivize private investment in limiting run-off on private property and will help limit the exposure that tax-exempt non-profit institutions like the University of Saint Joseph might have if a city or town were to create a Stormwater Authority. In New London, the only city where a Stormwater Authority currently exists, non-profit institutions of higher education are paying very high annual fees and it lacks a thorough system for awarding credit.

The University of Saint Joseph invests significantly in its infrastructure to limit or eliminate runoff. For example, the University recently removed approximately 50,000 square feet of impervious surface and redesigned the new multi-purpose turf athletic field to contain all storm water runoff on site. The University maintains three large rain water collection basins to provide a buffer for existing impervious surface on campus.

Given the consensus to significantly increase PILOT funding for municipalities last session – which we very much appreciate -- as well as significant federal funding going to municipalities over the next few years, while at the same time non-profit entities have lost significant revenue from the pandemic, we are very concerned about the consequences of allowing municipalities to assess fees such as these on the property of tax-exempt organizations. Thank you for the opportunity to support this legislation today.