



**For the Environment Committee  
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director  
January 27, 2023**

*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 6480 AA ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF  
EEL GRASS - Support**

Eelgrass is a underwater grass that grows in coastal waters of bays, estuaries, and beaches of Long Island Sound. Eelgrass habitat provides important foraging areas for fish and food for many migratory birds. Healthy eelgrass beds trap sediment and reduce wave energy during storms, improving water quality and protecting coastal areas from erosion – essential functions as we continue to experience the impacts of climate change.

According to the Long Island Sound Study, Eelgrass abundance is in decline.

The creation of a work group to develop strategies for preservation, restoration and expansion of eel grass along our state's shoreline is an important step in ensuring that our shoreline communities and Long Island Sound are more resilient. Please pass this bill.