



**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 6483 AAC THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM – Support

Water quality is directly tied to land use. Good surface water quality is critical to human health and ecology. Development and land use changes can adversely impact surface waters through increases in polluted surface water runoff and impervious surface.

Land conservation is the most effective way to protect water quality. The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program is a critical funding source to conserve open space that protects vital and threatened resources – such as high-quality aquatic habitat and drinking water watershed lands.

Your support for bonding for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program will not only provide resources to protect open space, but ensure that our rivers, stream, lakes, ponds and drinking water will remain clean and healthy for generations to come.