



**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 6486 – AAC EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIRES – Oppose

Connecticut needs an Extended Producer Responsibility program for tires. HB 6486 is NOT an Extended Producer Responsibility proposal.

Connecticut should be looking to circular economy management of tires that creates ***the greatest economic and social value***. One of the ways to accomplish this goal is to eliminate the fees in order to make disposal of tires free and easy. The creation of a *true* state-level product stewardship framework provides the best opportunity to beat back illegal tire dumping. Effective examples of this from Canada and Europe and regulatory strategies allow for the highest and best use of scrap tires according to the hierarchy of uses – reduce; reuse/retread; recycle. They use funding strategies that **internalize the costs with the tire manufacturer and puts responsibility on the producer to manage the product throughout its entire life cycle.**

In the place of HB 6486, we recommend looking to the language proposed by HB 5139 from the 2022 legislative session.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on this bill.

