



**For the Environment Committee
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
February 15, 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 bills before you today.

SB 100 AA ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO TOWNS THAT NEED PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION - SUPPORT

Is there PFAS contamination in my town? In your town? What if significant contamination from PFAS is found? How will our town pay for remediation to protect its citizens and natural resources?

The human health threat and persistence of PFAS contamination has been part of our public consciousness here in Connecticut since the release of AFFF to the Farmington River in 2019. Better testing and remediation methods are constantly being identified and developed. Testing and remediation still comes with a hefty price tag.

With the ubiquitousness of potential sources of PFAS contamination, establishing a fund to provide grants to towns for testing and remediation is much needed.

Concurrently, Connecticut should also focus on turning off the tap on PFAS contamination. With no firm resolution to phase PFAS out of consumer products, remediation efforts will never end and there will be no meaningful reduction in exposure of Connecticut's citizens to PFAS. Ann Hulick from Clean Water Action has provided the committee with excellent examples from other states that are taking action. In addition to the important step of providing funds to towns, we encourage the committee to take action on keeping PFAS out of our consumer and waste streams.