

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**PA 16-57**

HB5481

Senate	2693-2696	4
Planning & Development	457-460, 490-492, 520- 522, 528-529, 563-568	18
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		<b>22</b>

**Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public  
Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives  
Proceedings**

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
PART 8  
2400 – 2750**

cf  
Senate

May 3, 2016

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senate will stand  
at ease.

(Senator Winfield in the chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 23, Calendar 524, Substitute for House Bill  
Number 5481, AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS --  
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO  
MUNICIPALITIES. It's amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President,  
I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable  
report in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

Proceed.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

This bill here is concerning phosphorus reduction.  
It expands eligibility for the increased clean water  
fund grants. Under current law, municipalities that

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enter into contracts with the eligible phosphorus removal projects by July 1, 2018, qualify for a clean water fund grant. This goes into covering projects that started previous to the -- this aspect and it -- it extends the grant funds and I urge passage by the circle.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

And -- before we go any further, I just want to ask for a roll call vote on this particular piece of legislation.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. I stand for purpose of question to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten, prepare yourself. Senator McLachlan, please proceed.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Osten, the previous proposals on this bill were trying to preserve communities that had previously applied for

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Senate

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phosphorous remediation plans and were going to be granted a 50 percent reimbursement rate. I just wanted to see if those communities that already applied are still being grandfathered as part of this proposal.

Through you, Madam -- Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Senator McLachlan. Yes, this covers those particular projects. It also covers projects that started before the -- the phosphorus rules were -- were in effect and covers those projects at the 50 percent level.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH):

Thank you, Senator Osten. I support this bill and urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator --  
Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

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This needs a roll call vote, sir, if -- if you wouldn't mind.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. The machine will open -- will be open.  
Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members have voted? Have all members have voted? Please check to see that your vote has been properly recorded. If so, the machine shall be closed and the clerk shall announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5481.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	33
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	0

(Senator Osten in the chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you could call the next item. Oh.  
Can you please -- the yea's have it.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PLANNING  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
PART 1  
1 – 575**

**2016  
INDEX**

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/cd

March 4, 2016  
11:00 A.M.

PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REP. SRINIVASAN (38TH): It's just why do we need this? It's just another layer of bureaucracy particularly at a time in fact, was it Toni Boucher, Senator Boucher who was up here earlier, who mentioned that we're under you know, height of financial crisis here and we're supposed to be minimizing our government and we --

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): And Gary if this was the appropriations committee I'd let you go on that, but I've got other people that want to talk about planning and development so -

REP. BYRON (22ND): I hear you.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): So you know, I can't really talk about appropriations here and I don't know if you're on that committee, but I'm not. I'm on six already so I'm going to leave it to the good people on the appropriations committee.

REP. BYRON (22ND): Thank you all for hearing our testimony here today.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): Does anybody else have any comments or concerns for the Representative? Thank you very much.

REP. BYRON (22ND): Thank you.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): Have a nice day. Next up is John Ward, the administrator for the town of Vernon. And if you would both identify yourself for the record.

JOHN WARD: Certainly, good morning Madam Chair, ranking member, Senators and Representatives. My

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name is John Ward and I'm the Town Administrator for the town of Vernon. With me is Mr. Robert Grassis, Director of Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority.

ROBERT GRASSIS: I'm Robert Grassis, Director of Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority.

JOHN WARD: Thank you all for taking the time to hear us. We are here today to speak with you today regarding two urgent matters that pertain to Vernon's Regional Water Pollution control facility. First, we are here to speak in support of the proposed House Bill 5481, AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES, submitting by Representative --

The Vernon Water Pollution Control Facility is a regional facility that services in whole or in part, the municipalities of Vernon, Ellington, Tolland, Manchester, and South Windsor. The authority recently received its updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. This permit includes new requirements for the authority to limit the level of phosphorus that is discharged from the facility.

The Vernon plant is not designed to remove phosphorus and will be required to perform a significant and costly upgrade in order to meet the new discharge requirements. The overall project is estimated to cost in excess of 30 million dollars. Therefore we are interested in obtaining maximum eligibility for reimbursement from a clean water fund to help meet the state and federal goal.

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To that end, we urge support of Representative Aman's proposal to modify the construction start deadline from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020. As we are currently, have just started the initial design phase the 2008 date will be a challenge.

Secondly, we also urge this committee to adopt the clarifying language proposed by cost in regard to how the phosphorus levels are interpreted for the purposes of determining reimbursement levels. In order to receive the higher grant funding, the NPDES discharge level for phosphorus needs to be at or below 0.20 mg per liter, in the permit as stated in Public Act 14-13.

Vernon's phosphorus level is 0.22 mg per liter of affluent discharge, seemingly too high to make Vernon eligible for the higher reimbursement rate. However Vernon is also required to limit the amount of pounds of phosphorus that may be discharged into the Hoakanum River. If this pound limitation were applied to the average daily flow, the effect of the phosphorus level required drops to 0.14 mg per liter, which is below the threshold.

The effect of using the average monthly phosphorus limit of 0.22 mg per liter, ignores the reality that Vernon is in fact required to reduce the phosphorus levels to 0.14 mg per liter, or less. This may be corrected by either adding the clarifying language that actual phosphorus limits are the criteria used or as cost suggests, if the average monthly phosphorus level is used, raise the criteria to 0.25 mg per liter.

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Sample clarifying language was attached to the appendix, attached to this testimony for your consideration.

In summation, Vernon is required to reduce phosphorus levels to some of the lowest levels in the state and would respectfully request that it receive the benefit that coincides with the obligation of a low phosphorus limit and equitable treatment as afforded other authorities.

It is for these reasons that Mr. Grassis and myself, on behalf of the Mayor Champagne of Vernon, Vernon and its contributing municipalities ask for your consideration of these proposals.

Thank you for your time today.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): Would you like to add anything, do you have comment? Your partner, do you want to add anything?

ROBERT GRASSI: Yes, I just wanted to say that the PA 1413 legislation that was passed, does not reflect the true removal of phosphorus that's required. It's not the least restrictive limit, and we just feel that it's unfair that we're not given the same reimbursements as other towns.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH): Thank you. Are there any comments or concerns -- seeing none, thank you very much for coming up.

JOHN WARD: You're welcome, thank you.

ROBERT GRASSI: Thank you.

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forward with this, is an opt-out clause or we won't sign it, then it won't happen and the authority won't operate in that development district.

REP. AMAN (14TH): And that would hopefully keep the authority attuned to the town and their feelings towards what projects are being done and hope -- it behoove the authority to work closely with the town to make sure that the town is on board, as the project commences and goes forward then.

GIAN-CARL CASA: Yes, I think you know as sort of a general statement it would be fool hearty for an authority, but any authority really this one or others, to get into a battle of wills with the local community it's supposed to be helping. I think you know in relatively raid fashion that you guys would come back to the General Assembly session and curtail it's powers or do away with it altogether. So again I think that the idea that this would be a state entity that would try to find ways to perform projects or undertake projects or developments that the locals don't want, I just don't see that happening.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Thank you for that clarification and I think that's about it. Thank you for your testimony.

GIAN-CARL CASA: Thank you all for listening.

REP. MILLER (36TH): And next up will be Mary Quinn followed by Chris Edge. And Mary will be testifying on behalf of Representative Fritz, welcome.

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MARY QUINN (MARY FRITZ, 90TH): Hello thank you, good afternoon. I'll be very short. I'm here to

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testify on behalf of Mary Fritz in support of House Bill 5481, AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and fellow members of the Planning and Development Committee. For the record, I'm state Representative of the 90th district, representing parts of Cheshire and Wallingford. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I cannot appear before you, however my great aid Mary Quinn will present my testimony for me. I am in very strong support of House Bill 5481 because of circumstances which financially impact the town of Cheshire. Cheshire is in the process of building a new water treatment plant when the EPA established the new standards for phosphorus. The town decided to include this new mandate since the plant was being built. Unfortunately, the surrounding towns are receiving 50 percent for phosphorus reduction but because Cheshire started quickly, the grant was reduced to 30 percent.

I have attached an amendment which would level the playing field for Cheshire because the town was already in a position of building a new water treatment plant should not mean that the town would not be treated witness equity in solving the phosphorus problem. I believe this amendment does restore the equity and I truly hope you will support both my amendment and the bill.

Thank you for y our time, Representative Mary J. Fritz. And the amendment is attached to the testimony provided.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Suffice to say that Cheshire feels, and Representative Fritz feels that they've

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been showing good faith all along in addressing this problem and their concern is that as they've begun to be proactive, this change imposes a hardship that would be difficult for them to now redesign their efforts to catch up with currently?

MARY QUINN: Yes I think that's safe to say how they're feeling right now.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Are there any questions from any members all two of us here, present? Well thank you very much for your time. Yes, next we will hear from Chris Edge to be followed by David McGuire. Welcome Chris.

CHRIS EDGE: Thank you very much. My name is Chris Edge, I'm Economic Development Director for the town of Bruen our town manager was unable to make it this morning. Senator Osten, Representative Miller and others. I come in today from the town of Bruen, the town of Bruen is the first train station south of Hartford on the New Haven-Springfield-Hartford line. We have a train station that is now undergoing renovation. We have received great support from the State of Connecticut in support of SB-19. To date we have been working very closely with OPM, DOT and DECD, and realize development around our train station is vitally important to the fact that we're now working with two of our larger employers, Ever Source and Comcast and making connections with that train station to go both north and south.

We feel that this is a great way to use a small investment of public money to then facilitate private dollars. We are currently working with a corporation for independent living to put a 20 unit mixed use apartment building next to our train

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authority to do what is proposed and the state legislature by passing this bill, would be in effect usurping that responsibility and authority of the Bethel Planning and Zoning Committee.

This represents to me a frightening use of legislation to affect the outcome of a special zoning application. It has broad, negative implications with regard to local planning and zoning commission's control of the outcome of local communities and should therefore be rejected. Thank you.

I also had some testimony that I gave to the Bethel Planning and Zoning Committee if you would like that. And I've also been asked, with your forbearance to read a letter from another resident that has property adjacent to this concerning their objection.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Please summarize, go ahead.

MITCHELL GROSS: Okay well it's basically a letter objecting to this legislation for pretty much the same grounds that I stated in my testimony. Thank you.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Thank you for your testimony sir. Are there questions from the committee? No? Thank you sir.

Next up we'll hear from Walt Gancarz to be followed by Randy Collins. Welcome, sir.

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WALTER GANCARZ: Thank you. Chairpersons Osten and Miller and members of the Planning and Development Committee, I'm Walt Gancarz, I'm the town engineer

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and treasurer. And I'm here to express our full support for raised bill 5481, which increases the phosphorus grant percentage from 30 to 50 percent for communities installing phosphorus removal processes.

To all affected communities phosphorus treatment is both initially a capital expense and a significant ongoing maintenance expense. In the 50 percent rate of funding is certainly warranted. In Cheshire's case the capital cost to add this equipment is over 7 million dollars and the annual maintenance costs are over \$100,000 a year. Our strong opinion is that while we were one of the very few communities that moved ahead with funding to install phosphorus removal equipment at our waste water treatment plant is part of a 32 million dollar upgrade, we've been denied the 50 percent funding,

By providing reduced 30 percent funding levels to those communities that move ahead with environmental directives, and providing 50 percent funding levels to communities that delay and require greater investigation, seems to set a dangerous precedent. It certainly has a likely impact of making Connecticut DEPs future mandates harder to implement and actually penalized communities that move forward promptly.

One important technical note that we believe is critical to be added to this bill, is that it requires a limit of less than 0.2 mg per liter. In Cheshire's case and in many community cases, we actually have what is called a mass loading limit. That is we're given a total poundage per day that we can discharge. But if you take that total poundage per day and divide it by our design flow of 4



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million gallons a day, we actually end up with a limit which is much, which is less than 0.2, it's actually 0.12.

In conclusion Cheshire firmly believes that we should be funded at the same level as other communities that receive 50 percent phosphorus grants and not be financially punished for being at the forefront of this environmental regulation.

In just a few weeks, April 1st to be exact, Cheshire will begin removing 40 to 50 pounds per day from our final effluent, immediately having a positive impact on the Quinnipiac River. This is a great day for all environmental professionals who realize the impact of algae growth and oxygen depletion on water courses due to the presence of nutrients.

We are hopeful that the passage of this bill is completed, thereby allowing the communities to comply with this regulation to be treated with the same as others, that will be part of the process in the future. Thank you for your attention.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Thank you for your testimony sir. And Cheshire is to be commended for being out front o this. As you stated you know we've heard for years that the Quinnipiac needs to be lots better and we need to reverse some of the hypoxic conditions and such so, effect you feel as maybe a previous speaker did that you are somehow almost penalized for dong the right thing here.

GARY GANCARZ: Correct.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Any questions from the committee members? No. Thank you for your

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REP. MILLER (36TH): Thank you for your testimony.  
Are there questions from our committee? No sir.

RANDY OLSON: Thank you very much.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Okay, and next is Betsy Gara  
and Betsy will be followed by Rafael Podelsky who I  
believe will be our last speaker. Welcome Betsy.

HB 5485  
BETSY GARA: Thank you, my name is Betsy Gara, I am  
the Executive Director of the Connecticut Council of  
Small Towns. I did submit testimony on a couple of  
different bills but I just want to summarize  
testimony relative to House Bill 5481, the bill to  
assistant municipalities and abating phosphorus.

This bill extends the July 1, 2018 construction date  
for the phosphorus abatement project to 2020. The  
reason for that is that currently the statute  
penalizes municipalities that may not be moving  
forward because the MPDS permit has not yet come up  
for renewal. So it's really through no fault of  
their own. That we are requesting is the town of  
Vernon, I know Plainville has submitted testimony  
and the town of Cheshire has referenced, is that we  
need to change the effluent discharge limit in the  
statute.

The way that, that statute has been interpreted by  
DEEP, it has kind of kicked out certain  
municipalities from being deemed eligible for the 50  
percent reimbursement. And we do think that because  
there is kind of a small number of towns that are  
required to upgrade their waste water treatment  
plants to abate phosphorus that it is unfair for  
them to shoulder the burden and the cost burden

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associated with what is really a statewide problem. So we are looking for assistance in that regard.

In addition I have submitted testimony in opposition to House Bill 5485. We are very concerned that the bill would overburden the municipal tax assessment process by eliminating the three year time limit on the correction of tax assessments. This is something that actually benefits taxpayers as well as the municipality by providing a set period in which you can correct those municipal tax assessments.

In addition we're opposed to the local property tax exemption included in the bill, even though it's a local option. It does put pressure on the communities to adopt these tax exemptions and here are already a number of them on the books. And what that ends up doing is shifting more of the burden to our other property tax payers such as homeowners and businesses. Thank you.

REP. MILLER (36TH): Questions from the committee? None. That was concise and comprehensive, thank you. Have a nice weekend. And finally our last speaker is Rafael Podelsky, and welcome Rafe.

RAFAEL PODELSKY: Thank you very much members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Rafael Podelsky, I'm a lawyer with the Legal Assistance Resource Center. It's part of the legal aid programs.

I am here to speak briefly on House Bill 50 ---- on Section 4, of House Bill 5480, and that section deals with prevention of blight and foreclosed properties. And essentially I support Section 4 and



OFFICE OF THE  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
John D. Ward  
jward@vernon-ct.gov

Testimony of  
**Town of Vernon and Vernon W.P.C.A.**  
before the  
**Planning & Development Committee**  
**March 4, 2016**

Daniel A. Champagne  
Mayor of Vernon  
(860) 870-3600

**HB-5481 - AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

Good morning, Representatives and Senators:

My name is John Ward, and I am the Town Administrator for the Town of Vernon. With me is Mr. Robert Grasis, the Director of the Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority.

Thank you for taking the time to hear us.

We are here to speak with you today regarding two urgent matters that pertain to Vernon's Regional Water Pollution Control facility.

Firstly, we speak in support of **Proposed HB-5481 - AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**, submitted by Representative Aman. The Vernon Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) is a regional facility that services in whole, or in part, the municipalities of Vernon, Ellington, Tolland, Manchester, and South Windsor.

The Authority recently received its updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This permit includes new requirements for the Authority to limit the level of phosphorous that is discharged from its facility. The Vernon plant is not designed to remove phosphorous and will be required to perform a significant and costly upgrade in order to meet new discharge requirements. The overall project is estimated to cost the Towns in excess of thirty million (\$30,000,000) dollars. Therefore, we are interested in obtaining maximum eligibility for reimbursement from the Clean Water fund to help up meet this state and federal goal.

To that end, we urge support of Representative Aman's proposal to modify the construction start deadline from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020. As we are in the initial design state, the 2018 date is a challenge.

Secondly, we also urge this Committee to adopt the clarifying language proposed by COST in regard to how the phosphorous levels are interpreted for purposes of determining reimbursement levels. In order to receive the higher grant funding, the NPDES discharge level for phosphorous needs to be at or below 0.20 mg/l in the permit as stated in PA 14-13. Vernon's effective phosphorus level is 0.22 mg/ l of effluent discharge, , seemingly too high to make Vernon eligible for the higher reimbursement rate. However,

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Vernon is also required to limit the amount of pounds of phosphorous that may be discharged into the Hocaknum. If this pound limitation were applied to the average daily flow rate, the **effective** phosphorus level drops to 0.14 mg/L or below.

The effect of using the "*Average Monthly Phosphorus Limit*" of 0.22 mg/L ignores the reality that Vernon is in fact required to reduce phosphorous levels to 0.14 mg/L or less. This may be corrected by either adding clarifying language that actual phosphorus limits are the criteria used or, as COST's suggests, if the AMPL is used, raise the criteria to 0.25 mg/l.

Sample clarifying language may be found in the Appendix to this testimony for your consideration

In summation, Vernon is required to reduce phosphorus levels to some of the lowest levels in the state, and would respectfully request it receive the benefit that coincides with the obligation of a low phosphorous limit, and equitable treatment as accorded to other Authorities.

It is for these reasons that Mr. Grasis and myself, on behalf of Mayor Champagne of Vernon, Vernon and its contributing municipalities, am asking your consideration of these proposals.

Thank you for your time today

## APPENDIX

Delete the words, "Any contract entered into by a municipality on or before July 1, 2018, that is eligible for financing as a project undertaken for phosphorus removal to at or below two-tenths milligrams per liter effluent discharge...." and replace with the words, "Any contract entered into that is eligible for financing as a project undertaken for phosphorous removal to at or below two-tenths milligram per liter effluent discharge, as calculated by dividing the proposed permit load, measured in per pounds per day, by the current average flow, as contained in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Interim Phosphorous Reduction Strategy for Connecticut Freshwater Non-Tidal Waste-Receiving Rivers and Streams Technical Support Document, and dividing such resultant by 8.34 for purposes of converting from pounds per day to milligrams per liter shall each receive (A) a project grant of fifty per cent of the cost of the project associated with such phosphorous removal.



**Testimony**  
**Betsy Gara**  
**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
**Before the Planning & Development Committee**  
**March 4, 2016**

**RE: HB-5481 - PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports HB-5481, which will extend the July 1, 2018 construction contract date for phosphorus abatement projects to July 1, 2020. The rigid contract date in the current statute unfairly penalizes municipalities who, through no fault of their own, may still be awaiting permit renewals, project approvals or facing other issues in moving forward with a construction contract for phosphorus removal plant upgrades.

COST also supports revisions to the bill to revise the effluent discharge limit set forth in the statute. The language in the current law has been interpreted by the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) in a way that is inconsistent with the scientific basis for the permits that have been issued. As a result, certain municipalities have been determined to be ineligible for the reimbursement. Attached is language to address this inequity. We will be providing suggested revisions to the committee to address this concern.

Currently, the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is in the process of implementing a "Phosphorus Reduction Strategy for Inland Non-Tidal Waters" which will impact a number of towns and cities across Connecticut, requiring costly upgrades to wastewater treatment plants to comply with more stringent phosphorus reduction limits. Unfortunately, these municipalities are being burdened with addressing what is essentially a statewide problem resulting from excessive levels of phosphorus in certain water basins.

Recognizing that these communities are bearing the brunt of achieving statewide environmental goals, the legislature adopted Public Act 13-239 and Public Act 14-13, which increases from 30% to 50% the amount municipalities are eligible to receive under the Clean Water Fund grant program. However, the increased reimbursement is only available to municipalities that enter into a contract for phosphorus removal by July 1, 2018 to meet a .2 mg/l effluent discharge limit.

For example, although Plainville is required under its permit to meet the .2 mg/l limit, DEEP has denied Plainville eligibility for the 50% funding, asserting that the .2/mg/l performance level "must be present as a limit in a discharge permit, specifically the Monthly Average Daily Effluent Concentration Limit." This interpretation is not consistent with Public Act 14-13, which was intended to provide a level playing field for communities that undertake projects to remove phosphorus to a level at or below .2 mg/l without unfairly burdening residents in the affected municipalities.

By extending the contract date and revising the threshold referenced in the statute, HB-5481 will help ensure that certain towns are not shouldering the entire financial burden for meeting statewide environmental goals.

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000.*



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 STATE CAPITOL  
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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**ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**MEMBER**  
 JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE Mary G. Fritz, 90<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**  
**Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing**  
**March 4th, 2016**

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, fellow members of the Planning and Development Committee,

For the record, I am State Representative of the 90th District, representing parts of Cheshire and Wallingford. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I cannot appear before you. However, my great aide, Mary Quinn will present my testimony for me.

I am in very strong support of House Bill 5481 because of circumstances, which financially impact the town of Cheshire.

Cheshire was in the process of building a new water treatment plant when the E.P.A. established the new standards for phosphorus. The town decided to include this new mandate since the plant was being built. Unfortunately, the surrounding towns were receiving 50% for phosphorous reduction but because Cheshire started quickly, the grant was reduced to 30%.

I have attached an amendment, which would level the playing field for Cheshire. Because the town was already in a position of building a new water treatment plant, should not mean that the town would not be treated with equity in solving the phosphorus problem.

I believe this amendment does restore that equity and I truly hope you will support both my amendment and the bill.

Thank you for your time,

Rep. Mary G. Fritz



Document Name:	2016 Fritz Amendment to HB 5481
Create Date:	3/3/2016 9:58:00 AM
Last Saved Date	3/3/2016 10:25:00 AM
Attorney:	
Offered by:	Rep. Fritz, Mary 90 (D)

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To: House Bill 5481

File No. N/A Cal. No. N/A

**AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHOROUS REDUCTION  
REIMBURSEMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.**

In line 17, after the period, insert the following:

"Any municipality that undertook a phosphorous reduction between July 1, 2012 and the effective date of this section that otherwise meets the effluent discharge level described in this subdivision shall receive a project grant of fifty per cent of the cost of the project regardless of whether such phosphorous reduction was the primary purpose of such project, provided if such municipality received a project grant pursuant to subdivision (3) of this section for thirty per cent of the cost of the project, such municipality shall receive an additional project grant of twenty per cent of the cost of such project pursuant to this subdivision."