



March 17, 2025

Environmental Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Written Testimony Submission

Dear Environmental Committee Members:

I am writing to you as President of Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., (STR-STH) in full support of HB-5749 "AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITH NITROGEN-REMOVAL FEATURES". STR-STH feels that this legislation is key to the health of wetlands, streams, rivers and all waterbodies throughout the whole of Connecticut. Passing this legislation would allow the state of CT to join other coastal New England states in requiring septic systems to remove nitrogen. Removing nitrogen from the ubiquitous septic systems in CT will help decrease nitrogen levels in all of our waterways, thus allowing the natural marine fauna and flora to thrive. Excess nitrogen causes adverse reactions such as algae blooms that can wipe out an entire area's marine wildlife by depleting the oxygen they need to live. We have witnessed on the Niantic River Estuary large areas where marine life such as shellfish, eel grass, estuarian fish nurseries, adult fish and crabs have been killed by algae blooms caused by excess nitrogen in the river.

Also, the Niantic River Estuary's watershed is just one of many tributaries to the Long Island Sound. Removing nitrogen from septic systems in CT would help decrease the flow of nitrogen from all the tributaries that eventually flow to the Sound, thus positively affecting the water quality of the Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. As a coastal state, STR-STH feels that the state of CT has an obligation to protect not only its inland waters, but our coastal boundary waters as well.

STR-STH is a local, grassroots environmental nonprofit organization focused on the Niantic River Estuary and Bay in southeastern CT with an average of 350 members annually. Created in 2001, STR-STH's mission is the preservation of the health of the Niantic River Estuary and its watershed forests which protect the water quality of the river. Our Pumpout Boat Program ensures that the Niantic River Estuary and Bay remain free of marine waste from local and visiting boats. Decreasing the nitrogen load is the next important step in keeping the river healthy.

Finally, STR-STH is in full support of the testimonies submitted by Dr. Jamie Vaudrey, Dan Mullins and Don Danila.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at president@savetheriversavethehills.org or 860-444-9247. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

D. Moshier-Dunn

Deb Moshier-Dunn
President, Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.