



**For the Environment & Commerce Committees
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
September 16, 2020**

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 for this listening session on changes to the Transfer Act and replacing the program with a release-based remediation program.

LCO No. 3962 – AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PROPERTY TRANSFER LAW AND SPILL BASED REMEDIATION OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS WASTE

Rivers Alliance is in support of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) moving toward a release-based program. A release-based program would require that contamination be addressed when it occurs, resulting in more and timely cleanups. The business, regulated and environmental communities agree that the current property transfer law are deficient in both protecting our environment and public health and in promoting a healthy economy and business environment. Therefore, we support the proposal put forth provided that Sections 501-509 of this working draft remain without substantial changes.

Rivers Alliance signed on to a joint testimony through Save the Sound for a public hearing held in March on this issue. There were four specific issues of concern put forth in the testimony: (1) A robust and transparent system of reporting and auditing; (2) Sufficient DEEP oversight through a specified percentage of cleanup audits; (3) Reservation of the right of DEEP to audit all tiers of cleanups or take over management of a cleanup when necessary; and (4) A citizen suit provision.

Issues (1) – (3) were resolved to satisfaction in the current language found in sections 501-509. Provided that there are no substantive changes to these sections going forward, we are in support of moving LCO No. 3962 working draft language.

Thank you for your consideration.

