



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
MAYOR

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February 20, 2013

ATTN: Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development

RE: Public Hearing Friday, February 22, 2013, 10:00 a.m. - Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut, 2013-2018 (Draft C&D Plan) – Formal Testimony from the Town of Wallingford

The Town of Wallingford appreciates the effort and the multitude of changes made thus far to address comments and concerns from Wallingford and the many other sources of input, in regard to the update to the State's Plan of Conservation and Development.

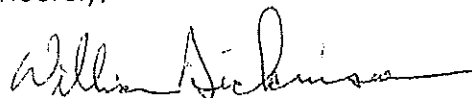
There are a few concerns which have not been addressed to the Town's satisfaction, and which the Town of Wallingford continues to consider of utmost importance. They are as follows:

1. The Town maintains its request that the utility service boundaries previously accepted by DPH/DEEP/OPM be shown on the Map and used to designate areas consistent with the plan for utility service (present or future). The Town is of the understanding that OPM is working toward that end, but is still somewhat unclear as to how/if this will be represented in the "priority funding"/"balanced growth"/"priority conservation" designations.
2. In relation to the above, the Town continues to have concerns regarding the use of census blocks for priority funding areas; the primary concern being that a member of the public (i.e. property owner/potential buyer/developer) will see a property designated as "priority funding" on the Map, based on the census block, and will not understand, or will try to challenge the explanation, when utility extensions or other elements of a "priority funding" area do not apply to that property.
3. The Town also maintains its request that OPM be the designated agency for determinations of consistency, rather than allowing each agency to make its own interpretation.

4. The Town suggests that language similar to that in OPM's response to the Town of Wallingford's comment #5 be added into the plan (i.e. "Since the Map is a secondary consideration after a state agency has determined the consistency of a proposed growth-related project, any inaccuracies in data can be addressed as needed on a project-by-project basis).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William W. Dickinson, Jr.
Mayor

jms

cc: Senator Fasano
Representative Adinolfi
Representative Candelora
Representative Fritz
Representative Mushinsky