



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH CHANGES:

HB 5616 Improving Standard for Inland Wetland Commission Authority
Membership and Enforcement

February 27, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs
Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and
Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of
HB 5616 with changes. **We align our support for this bill with expert
testimony submitted by Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.** They have
provided detailed recommendations to amend the language to best achieve
the goals of this legislation.

In addition, CTLCV would like to highlight the persistent lack of resources at
DEEP to implement and manage the Inland Wetlands program.

Apparently, the Agency has **NO staff at all** dedicated to this critical work,
whereas our neighboring state of Massachusetts (arguably with similar
needs) **has five Inland Wetlands staff.**

This work in CT has fallen to local volunteer commissioners. As such, we
support required training for these volunteers and ask that legislators find a
way to put some resources back into DEEP to support the Inland Wetlands
program.

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