



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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*Executive Director*

February 28, 2025

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Bumgardner, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Proposed Senate Bill No. 58 - An Act Authorizing Residents Living in a Flood Zone to Lay Up to Ten Thousand Cubic Yards of Landscape Fill Per Year in Their Yard and Establishing a Tax Deduction for the Costs Of Such Fill and a Grant Program for Road Raising.

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **OPPOSES** the provisions of the proposed bill that would authorize any resident living in a flood zone to lay up to ten thousand cubic yards of landscaping fill around the foundation of such resident's dwelling per year. The placement of fill within a flood hazard area could exacerbate flooding issues in other areas of the flood zone.

The Council **SUPPORTS** Section 3 of the proposed bill that would require the Department of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to municipalities for road raising for climate resiliency projects.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director