



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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*Executive Director*

February 19, 2026

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 Raised Bill No. 145 - An Act Studying the Remediation of Hydrilla in State Lakes and the Expediting of Permits Related to Such Remediation – **Support**

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 **SUPPORTS** the provision of Raised Bill 145 that would require the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to conduct a study, in conjunction with the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species, on the remediation of hydrilla in state lakes. In 2025, the Council received numerous complaints and inquiries regarding the use of herbicides to treat hydrilla in the Connecticut River. Consequently, the proposed study on measures to remediate or control hydrilla in Connecticut's lakes is both timely and would be of high value to Connecticut's residents. The Council suggests refinement of the proposed legislation for the study to also examine the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that each such control method might have on the environment and public health.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director