



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

February 22, 2017

To: Senators Kennedy and Miner, Representative Demicco, Co-Chairs
Representative Harding, Ranking Member
Members of the Environment Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Support SB 285, AA Providing for the Offset of Certain Environmental
Costs and Fines Through Investment in Environmental Remediation
Support HB 6332, AAC Funding for Alternative Treatment Systems**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

We support SB 285. SB 285 creates a process whereby the Commissioner of DEEP may direct payments from a regulated entity that has committed a violation toward remediating equipment, materials, machinery, technology, facilities and processes that assure that any such knowing or negligent violation will not occur. These payments are in lieu of payments to the state for the costs of detecting, investigating, controlling and abating environmental violations, or in lieu of civil penalties for such violations. At the Commissioner's discretion, this could lead to more environmental remediation and better compliance education for the regulated community. It's an improvement in our environmental laws.

We strongly support HB 6332, which (other than state agency staff work to write regulations) has nothing to do with funding for alternative treatment septic systems. The bill requires both DEEP and DPH to work together to adopt regulations to facilitate the approval of alternative treatment systems. Such systems, serving developments that are not on centralized sewer systems and in areas not suitable for traditional septic systems, are well known and widely accepted in other states, including Rhode Island. While there are other issues with the regulation of wastewater from developments that need to be addressed, such as transferring authority (and possibly resources) from DEEP to DPH to regulate systems larger than 5,000 gallons per day (gpd), and reviewing and reconsidering the current 150 gpd per bedroom standard, the regulation and acceptance of alternative treatment systems must be included in CT's regulatory makeup. Such regulatory process must also be swift and certain.

We urge you to support these bills to help further improve the regulatory environment in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this legislation.

Vision: "Building CT's Economy, Communities and Better Lives One Home at a Time"
Mission: "Using Effective Advocacy and New Knowledge to Solve Our Member's Problems."