

To: CGA Planning and Development Committee

From: Christine Pattee, 98 Brookline Road Coventry CT 06238

C2pattee@aol.com, 860-742-6511

Re: Support for S.B. No. 701 (raised) AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (PD)

I strongly support S.B. No. 701 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY. I support all efforts to extend and expand sewer and water connections in our rural part of the state, because lack of sewer capacity is the single, most significant limiting factor to construction of affordable housing in our towns.

At our Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee meetings, Coventry's limited sewer availability comes up again and again. Common sense-wise, everybody knows that it's significantly less expensive to build a house with sewer and water connections rather than put in an individual well and septic system. But everybody also knows that increasing sewer capacity will cost millions of dollars, and that will never fly in our current political environment.

According to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) "The State's POCD for Coventry service area shows it to be predominantly an area of Local Conservation Priority... [which discourages] the joint extension of sewer and water service into unsewered rural areas, except ... in areas planned for significant commercial or industrial development." The unintended consequence of this statement is an effective veto of housing for seniors and anybody else who needs an affordable place to live.

Two decades ago, when DEP required Coventry to sewer the lake area to preserve water quality, it was the right decision. Back then, only demographers were thinking about the impact of the Baby Boom population bulge, but now, especially in rural communities where young people tend to move out and senior citizens want to stay, we have a huge problem. Nearly on in five Coventry residents is over 65, and there is nowhere affordable for us to go when we need or want to move out of the single family homes we've lived in for decades.