



**For the Planning and Development Committee  
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director  
March 5, 2021**

*Rivers Alliance was formed to fight for sound water policies at the state and federal levels, to provide education on water resources, and to advocate for any person or group striving to protect water. If you want clean, free-flowing and healthy rivers, and high-quality drinking water, Rivers Alliance is here to help.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following raised bill before you today.

**HB 961 AAC CERTAIN SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS AND ALTERNATIVE  
SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS – OPPOSE**

In his testimony on SB 1013 which is the exact same bill before you today, then DPH Commissioner Raul Pino stated that, “The law provides for the transfer of jurisdiction from DEEP to DPH for alternative on-site sewage treatment systems with capacities up to 5,000 GPD, once DPH promulgates regulations that govern such systems. Unfortunately, no funding was ever appropriated to facilitate DPH’s efforts to adopt regulations and operate an administrative program for these alternative systems.” DPH still has yet to develop these regulations and to our knowledge has not received funding to promulgate regulations and, therefore, is not prepared to implement oversight. Raising the threshold for jurisdiction at this time does not make sense.

Furthermore, all wastewater treatment systems require some level of maintenance and oversight to ensure that ground and surface waters are not impaired by malfunction or neglect of proper maintenance. With proper oversight and regulation, alternative sewage treatment systems (ATS) could be a good solution in areas where traditional septic has or could cause impairment to our waters. But Connecticut is not there yet. DEEP and DPH need to come together to determine a pathway forward for ATS to be considered a viable tool that can be implemented in our communities.

