

State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY**  
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**RANKING MEMBER**  
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Robert Hust  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127  
[deep.streamflowclass@ct.gov](mailto:deep.streamflowclass@ct.gov)

August 21, 2015

Dear Mr. Hust,

I was co-sponsor of the Streamflow law and have followed development of the regulations intently. Please accept my comments on the proposed classification of streams in the South Central CT Region.

The proposed streamflow classifications for the rivers of South Central CT appear reasonable for the most part and predictable based on recognized current and future uses of rivers and streams for water supply. However, I question whether the automatic designation of class 3 for water supply needs to include such a long reach of the Muddy River, which initially passes through the heavily forested Tyler Mill Preserve in Wallingford and would be capable of restoration of a trout fishery if sufficient streamflow were allocated. These reaches of the Muddy include **Segments ID:104000880, 104000887, 104000539, and 104000631.**

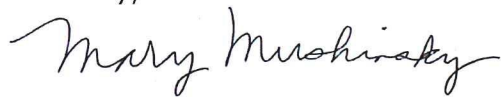
The segments shown in purple, that is, segments not automatically assigned category 3 due to water supply use but degraded to class 3 due to local conditions, are a concern. Has CT DEEP decided that impervious cover cannot be reversed in these cases? I hope the agency is flexible enough to encourage citizens to build or restore streamside buffers so they may then petition DEEP to upgrade purple class 3 segments to class 2. Examples of this degraded class found in suburbia are **Segments ID: 104000325, 104000384, 104000371 104001824 and 104000172** as well as industrial area **ID: 104000463**, which is forested and could be upgraded in the future.

It is unclear why a single segment of the Quinnipiac River in the North Haven estuary, **Segment ID: 104000955**, has been listed as class 3. Segments directly above and below are ranked higher.

One of your criteria in classification is (iv) the practicality of, and potential for, achieving ecological benefit from restoring streamflow to the specific river or stream system. I hope DEEP's classification scheme is a living document with segments that can be changed over time as restoration efforts, spurred by recent watershed based plans for the Quinnipiac and West Rivers, take hold and residents introduce best practices, such as restoration of vegetation and capture of rainwater on site, to elevate segments to higher classes. People need hope to invest their time and energy in restoration.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Mushinsky". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Mushinsky  
State Representative 85<sup>th</sup> District