

Dear friends and neighbors,

This year, I joined the Environment Committee in addition to my regular duties on other committees. Environmental policy affects us all, but serving on the committee gives our area a voice in state policy. I've been able to support the hard work that you do in the community.

I successfully focused on water quality of the Sound and West River, and continued support for Connecticut agriculture.

With less success, I tried to help reduce plastic bags in our parks and rivers. You expressed broad support for the concept in our meetings, but the bill hit a snag in the legislature due to the details of implementation. We took up many complex issues, so this update is only a snapshot of some that directly affect us. Thank you for the work you do.

Best,



*Rep Dillon meeting with
Dwight Management team
on plastic bag bill*



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PATRICIA DILLON

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*With Martha Smith and Virginia Spell
- Fellow members of the West River
Watershed Coalition*

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DILLON UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AS “CONNECTICUT GROWN”

We have made dramatic progress supporting our state’s agricultural sector - so much so, that some vendors claim their produce is ‘Connecticut grown’ when it is not. This proposal tightens up regulations and penalties to support Connecticut farmers.

GREENWAY DESIGNATION

I joined fellow members of the West River Watershed Coalition to celebrate our Greenway designation. As Martha Smith of the Steering Committee said, the acceptance of the recent Greenway status is a ‘launching pad.’ The potential for reducing combined sewer overflow is great, and more access is needed. Thanks for your hard work!

BUDGET PROGRESS ON CLEAN WATER

- Support for West River watershed plan
- \$140 million in grants and \$238 million in low interest loans for municipal Clean Water Act projects. Such projects keep sewage from flowing into rivers, streams, and Long Island Sound.

LONG ISLAND SOUND BLUE PLAN

This proposal is exciting and overdue. The Long Island Sound region is the most densely populated estuary in the country. Yet Connecticut lacks a coastal marine spatial plan to guide us in economic development decisions. When completed, this plan should enable coastal communities and industries seeking to utilize the same sea area to work together to balance economic development and protection of our watershed.