

# WEST CORNWALL WASTEWATER PROJECT

# 22 Letters of Support

|           |                                     |                                  |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>1</u>  | Board of Selectmen                  | G Ridgway, P Pavel, M Kotchoubey |
| <u>2</u>  | Cornwall Board of Finance           | Joe Pryor                        |
| <u>3</u>  | Torrington Area Health              | Cathy Weber                      |
| <u>4</u>  | WC Wastewater Committee             | Todd Piker                       |
| <u>5</u>  | 64th District, State Representative | Maria Horn                       |
| <u>6</u>  | NW Hills CoG                        | Rick Lynn                        |
| <u>7</u>  | NW Conservation District            | Cynthia Rabinowitz               |
| <u>8</u>  | Cornwall Assessor                   | Barbara Bigos                    |
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| <u>11</u> | Cornwall Elderly Housing            | Will Calhoun                     |
| <u>12</u> | Cornwall Historical Society         | Lisa Lansing                     |
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| <u>17</u> | Housatonic River Commission         | Phil Hart, Barton Jones          |
| <u>18</u> | Housatonic Valley Assoc             | Lynn Werner                      |
| <u>19</u> | Ingersol, Ian                       | Business Owner in WC             |
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| <u>21</u> | Cornejo, Toby                       | Citizen                          |
| <u>22</u> | Betts, William                      | WC Business Owner                |

# TOWN OF CORNWALL

**P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753**  
**(860) 672-4959 Fax (860) 672-4068**  
[cwselectmen@optonline.net](mailto:cwselectmen@optonline.net)

Congresswoman Jahana Hayes  
5<sup>th</sup> District, Connecticut  
108 Bank Street  
Second Floor  
Waterbury, CT 06702

**April 7, 2021**  
**Community Project Funding Request**

Dear Congresswoman,

The Town of Cornwall is pleased to submit our grant application under the Community Projects Funding program. The community has been studying the most efficient way to bring a state-of-the-art waste water management system to the Village of West Cornwall since 2016. Currently, there are many buildings in the village with systems that do not meet the current health code mostly because of their close proximity to each other. There are some buildings in the village – like the closed library – that have no septic system. Others cannot function fully as business or residences due to septic issues.

The Town, with assistance of a grant from CT DOT via the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, has hired WMC Engineers who have come up with a realistic plan to solve this problem. (see attached WMC Engineers' Engineering Report)

You can read the many different letters we have gathered in support of this project. Also, in July of 2019, the Cornwall Town Meeting voted 164 to 43 in favor of the Town applying to USDA for grant assistance. The project has been deemed eligible for a USDA grant, but we hope this new grant will provide increased funding. A town vote proposed for this summer would match the 75% federal construction fund with 25% local funds.

Thank you for your help and consideration for this very worthwhile project which will have benefits far beyond our village's borders.

Sincerely,

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Cornwall, CT

First Selectman, Gordon Ridgway

Selectwoman, Marina Kotchoubey

Selectman, Priscilla Pavel

Board of Finance  
Town of Cornwall  
26 Pine Street, P.O. Box 97  
Cornwall, CT 06753

March 28, 2021

Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

RE: Community Projects Funding  
West Cornwall Wastewater Management Project  
Jahana Hayes (CT-05)

Dear Committee Members:

The Cornwall Board of Finance is writing in support of the Town of Cornwall's application for Community Projects funding. Our Town is tucked away in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in the northwest corner of Connecticut. This is a very rural part of the state and we are proud of our farms and our high school's AgriScience program. The Town is known for our Covered Bridge and our recreational access to the Housatonic River. These awe-inspiring features bring many visitors from afar and it is these attractions which this funding directly helps.

The little picturesque village of West Cornwall needs your help. It's main street consists of commercial buildings and little homes. Retail has changed over the past 20 years. What were once video stores, small grocers and other necessity stores are now being replaced with bike and kayak rentals, coffee shops and potential restaurants and other retailers catering to visitors. Up until now, each postage-stamp size lot was responsible for its own septic; however this solution is no longer adequate and we are all now much more cognizant of the risk of runoff into our beautiful river. Most existing restrooms are not up to modern codes.

**BENEFITS OF A NEW SEWER SYSTEM:**

- Historical value of town and covered bridge
- Health and safety of residents
- Recreation and tourism
- Regional impact
- A vitalized main street
- Housatonic River water quality

Installing a common sewer system for this hamlet is a very needed solution that will provide an incredible amount of benefits. Almost every commercial building in town cannot be turned into a restaurant or bed and breakfast or anything else due to prohibitions related to septic. Without an appropriate highest and best use available owners are disinclined to invest in their properties.

Obviously the proposed sewer solution is a costly one and a difficult one for a town with a small tax base and a population of only 1400. However, it is absolutely necessary for the health of our town, its drinking water and the Housatonic River. We on the Board of Finance are convinced that this project will result in an improved retail environment for the town and lead to a happy and thriving main street, once again.

Sincerely,



Joseph Pryor  
Chairman



Lisa Lansing Simont  
Assistant Chair



Carl Hermann



David Hubbard



John LaPorta



Janet Carlson Sanders



John F. Brown



Simon Hewett



# TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

350 Main Street ♦ Suite A ♦ Torrington, Connecticut 06790  
Phone (860) 489-0436 ♦ Fax (860) 496-8243 ♦ E-mail [info@tahd.org](mailto:info@tahd.org) ♦ Web [www.tahd.org](http://www.tahd.org)  
*"Promoting Health & Preventing Disease Since 1967"*

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April 5, 2021

Cornwall Board of Selectmen  
P.O. Box 97  
Cornwall, CT 06753

Re: Wastewater Treatment Facility in West Cornwall

Dear Selectmen Members,

This letter is in support of a proposed wastewater treatment facility to serve the West Cornwall Village. T.A.H.D. has served the town of Cornwall since 1980 and several of us have worked on most of the properties in the West Cornwall Village due to septic system or well issues. The properties in West Cornwall Village are mostly small and cannot accommodate a code compliant septic system and well. We have been forced to put in several non compliant septic systems throughout the village requiring special permits from the State Health Department for well exceptions due to limited space. Several septic systems had to be put on properties other than those served, also with special exceptions from the State Health Department.

The Septic systems in the West Cornwall Village have limped along with many patches but there will be a breaking point. The T.A.H.D. whole heartedly supports a wastewater treatment facility.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine F. Weber".

Catherine F. Weber, R.S.

Todd Piker

Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754

The following remarks were made in my capacity as the Chairman of the Town of Cornwall's West Cornwall Wastewater Treatment project on June 29, 2019. Then, as now, we had/have been charged to assist the Selectmen in their study of wastewater treatment alternatives. I submit it as documentary support for the present effort to obtain a Community Project Funding grant.

(remarks delivered at the June 29, 2019 Town Meeting)

Good evening everyone and thanks for showing up. I've always maintained that this subject-discussions concerning community septic- won't readily fill auditoriums. However, when bundled with economic revitalization and possible drinking water contamination the subject begins to trigger genuine citizen concern. In our case today, we can discuss both of those subjects as they relate to community septic and West Cornwall.

My name is Todd Piker. I have lived in Cornwall Bridge since 1974. 45 years. My wife and I raised 2 daughters here and we built a business that occupied space both in Cornwall Bridge and West Cornwall. I have taken part in many of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development efforts and in 2006, as we prepared for the 2010 POCD I worked on the West Cornwall component that addressed specifically Economic Development in our village centers. Although primarily an exercise in State mandated local civic will, the POCD has a responsibility both to future generations and a wider public good when identifying priorities for a setting that belongs to no one but available to everyone for eternity. In essence we – visitors to West Cornwall and residents of Cornwall alike—are stakeholders. Therefore, when asked by the Selectmen to sit on the West Cornwall Water/Septic Committee and then voted by that Committee to be its Chair I felt a grave responsibility to be as deliberate and inclusive as possible.

After a complex vetting procedure the Committee hired an engineering firm. WMC Consulting Engineers. Their Final Report was completed in November of 2017 and has been available on the [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org) website since then. Indeed, the Executive Summary our Committee approved and circulated here for tonight's proceedings is an expanded version of the summary in that public Final Version. We spent the whole of 2018 in noticed, public meetings discussing the merits and challenges of the recommendations and listening to many members of the community. We have sat with representatives from the State DEEP, TAHD, elected officials and learned, experienced town officials from communities that are deeply engaged and continuously wrestling with the subject. We also made multiple site visits to see and feel first hand a significant number of wastewater treatment options being utilized elsewhere.

Before proceeding to a Town-wide referendum concerning the approval/disapproval of additional funds to continue the study we felt it incumbent on us to provide one final opportunity for the stakeholders-near and far—to ask questions, pose concerns and proffer opinions about the value, or lack thereof, relative to a community wastewater treatment facility for West Cornwall.

Sincerely,  
Todd Piker  
Chairman  
West Cornwall Waste Water Treatment Committee



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

**REPRESENTATIVE MARIA HORN**  
64TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEG SLAT VE OFF CE BU LD NG ROOM 3603  
CELL (860) 671-1026  
CAP TOL (860) 240-8528  
FAX (860) 240-0206  
E-MA L Maria.Horn@cga.ct.gov

**CO-CHAIR**  
PUBL C SAFETY & SECUR TY COMM TTEE

**MEMBER**  
ENV RONMENT COMM TTEE  
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMM TTEE

April 5, 2021

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Cornwall  
Cornwall Town Hall  
26 Pine Street  
P.O Box 97 Cornwall, CT, 06753

Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I write in support of the application of the Town of Cornwall for Community Project Funding for the planning, acquisition and construction of a wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall Village.

West Cornwall Village is an active commercial center, a hilly geography atop a tight arrangement of property lines, septic systems and drinking water wells. The constricted space makes it difficult to install and maintain these systems, and reports have indicated that some fail to meet the CT Public Health Code, which is designed to protect surface and groundwater, as well as the Housatonic River.

While the primary purpose of a treatment plant would be to bring the properties in West Cornwall Village into compliance with the state health code, it would also facilitate village revitalization, serving both commercial and residential buildings.

The taxpayers of Cornwall have voted twice to support the expenditure of funds in support of this project, for both a study of alternatives and additional engineering and consulting work necessary to apply for grants.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria Horn".

Maria Horn  
64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



March 31, 2021

Honorable Jahana Hayes  
United States House of Representatives  
Fifth District, Connecticut  
108 Bank Street, Second Floor  
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Congresswoman Hayes:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Town of Cornwall's application under the Community Project Funding Program for the planning, acquisition, and construction of a wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall Village.

As detailed in the town's application, the facility is needed to bring properties in West Cornwall into compliance with the health code, protect water quality, and facilitate village revitalization. The Northwest Hills Council of Governments, which consists of the 21 chief elected officials in the Northwest Hills Region, has long supported local efforts to protect environmental quality and strengthen the economic viability of village centers in the region.

The NHTCOG's "Regional Plan of Conservation and Development" supports the maintenance and improvement of municipal infrastructure such as wastewater treatment facilities and the protection of water quality. The NHTCOG's "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" also strongly supports the revitalization of the region's community centers. The State Plan of Conservation and Development specifically identifies the redevelopment and revitalization of physical infrastructure as one of the State's top six growth management principles along with protecting the integrity of environmental assets critical to public health.

The community commitment for project implementation is evident in the research and investment that has been made to date. The project will serve to improve municipal infrastructure, facilitate economic development, and protect water quality in the Northwest Hills. Please consider supporting and advocating for Cornwall's Community Project Funding Program request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Lynn, Jr., AICP  
Executive Director



April 1, 2021

Re: Waste-Water Management in Cornwall Village

To Whom It May Concern:

Cornwall Village is a traditional New England settlement nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, in Northwestern Connecticut, and within the watershed of the Housatonic River. The river is one of Connecticut's major river systems and the watershed covers parts of Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut, discharging to Long Island Sound (LIS).

(LIS) has been a focus of efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency and many other governmental and non-profit organizations to mitigate water quality issues which adversely affected the Sound over many decades and impacted the health of the biology of the Sound, including the sustainability of the fisheries industry, an important food resource and economic engine for Connecticut and neighboring states.

As is typical of most of the towns in northwestern Connecticut, sewage treatment has traditionally been the responsibility of each property owner and relies on private septic systems. Because of the hilly, rugged terrain in much of the town of Cornwall, the aging septic system infrastructure, and the proximity to the Housatonic River and its many tributaries, the continued use of private septic systems has become a potential source of contamination for the water resources.

The service area for the proposed waste-water treatment plant in West Cornwall includes sections of the Mill Brook river which is on the list of impaired waters. Failure to provide a waste-water treatment plant in areas of potential septic failure would further impact the Mill Brook, which empties into the Housatonic River. The Housatonic River is currently under consideration for "Wild and Scenic River" designation and work is being done to improve fish habitat and provide recreational access in the West Cornwall village area.

The Town of Cornwall is seeking funding for the planning, acquisition, and construction of a wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall Village. This facility will incorporate state-of-the-art technology to build an appropriately sized, affordable plant. The facility will serve commercial and residential buildings and be supported by users and by the town's annual budget.

Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) works to protect soil and water resources by educating the public and partnering with municipalities to implement best management practices across all disciplines to ensure the health of the natural resources of the region. Consequently, NWCD supports efforts to provide state-of-the art septic treatment which removes the risk of contamination from the many numerous private systems of which many may be at risk of failing.

We strongly endorse the application of the Town of Cornwall, Connecticut for Community Project Funding for West Cornwall. This is exactly the kind of project which has widespread benefit, not only for the citizens served by the waste treatment facility but the many magnified benefits to the ecosystem from northwest Connecticut, through the entire watershed and into Long Island Sound which impacts many more people beyond the Village of West Cornwall.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely

*CMRabinowitz*

Cynthia Rabinowitz  
Executive Director, Northwest Conservation District  
Professional Soil Scientist (Society of Soil Scientists of Southern  
New England; Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists)

# Town of Cornwall



March 30, 2021

T0: Cornwall Board of Selectmen  
From: Barbara Bigos, CCMAII Cornwall Tax Assessor  
Re: Proposed wastewater treatment project for W. Cornwall

As the Cornwall Municipal Assessor for the last 15 years and counting, I support this project and see it as vital to stabilizing and even increasing property values in West Cornwall.

Because this particular area is a tourist destination with an iconic covered bridge, it should be important to all Connecticut residents to keep it from declining from its historic charming appeal.

Property values in West Cornwall have not been able to keep up with current market trends principally related to septic issues.

This historic riverfront village has very small lots and most of the properties have inadequate septic systems, a few properties have no system, and there is no room for repair or expansion.

This set of circumstances is the principal driver for decreased property values in this hamlet of West Cornwall over the years as the market has shown the impact this situation has on sales.

Currently, Cornwall is in the process of completing the State mandated revaluation of all properties in Town for the 10/1/2021 Grand List and again these properties are faced with the issue of buyer's concern that the properties are suffering from poor septic systems with no remediation possible.

To reiterate, I support this project. The lasting impact it will provide is immeasurable and without this project, this simple sweet village at the base of the historic covered bridge, may not be able to be saved.

# CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P.O. Box 74 • West Cornwall, CT • 06796

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March 31, 2021

US Department of Agriculture  
Washington D.C.

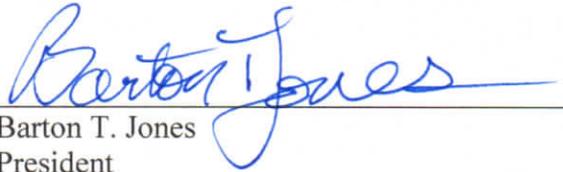
Re: Support for Town of Cornwall Grant Application to U.S. Department of Agriculture for funding through USDA's Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. strongly supports the above captioned grant application by the Town of Cornwall to be used for the planning, acquisition and construction of a wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall Village incorporating state-of-the-art technology to build an appropriately sized, affordable plant.

Sincerely yours,  
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.

By

  
Barton T. Jones  
President

Cc: Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall, Connecticut

Cornwall Economic Development Commission  
Town of Cornwall  
26 Pine Street, P.O. Box 97  
Cornwall, CT 06753

March 31st, 2021

Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

RE: Community Projects Funding  
West Cornwall Sewer Project  
Jahana Hayes (CT-05)

Dear Committee Members:

The Cornwall Economic Development Commission is writing in strong, full support of the Town of Cornwall's application for Community Projects funding. Our Town is rural, with a strong connected community of local-born folks and newcomers from the "big cities". Everyone is made welcome here - the community is open and accepting of all-comers. Volunteerism runs strongly in our town along with an exceedingly strong entrepreneurial spirit. In fact, 40% of Cornwallians are self-employed and we have over 134 businesses in town, and many newcomers who would love to start a business here. Because of COVID-19, our town has gotten many more new neighbors, who are working from home and pondering what business they might bring to our town! Everyone, both newbies and locals alike would love to have more coffee shops and eateries, since we have literally none, and which are not possible with our current septic situation!

This little village of West Cornwall just desperately needs your help. It's main street consists of a mix of commercial buildings and little homes. Retail has changed drastically over the past 20 years. Once we had a mix of small grocers, butchers, laundromats which served the local people's needs. Now we have service-based businesses, gift and sports shops and outdoor sporting goods, all more geared to tourists and visitors. More restaurants are in the works that would serve both locals and tourists...and boy, do we need them!! From an economic standpoint, we have a lot of small buildings that are exceedingly limited in their usage, which curtails what KIND of business can be there and what they can offer, due to the septic systems in town.

Up until now, each postage-stamp size lot was responsible for its own septic; however, this solution is no longer even remotely adequate and we are much more cognizant of the risk of runoff into our beautiful river.

**BENEFITS OF A NEW SEWER SYSTEM:**

- More business = more jobs for locals
- Historical value of town and covered bridge
- Health and safety of residents
- Recreation and tourism
- Draw people to the NW Corner, benefitting all towns
- A renewed Main Street
- Allows highest, best use of each building
- Eliminates limitations on business offerings
- Housatonic River water quality

Installing a common sewer system for this hamlet is a much-needed solution that will provide an incredible amount of benefits. Almost every commercial building in town is highly limited, due to prohibitions related to septic, which in turn limits what they can offer the public as a business. Without an appropriate highest and best use for their buildings, available owners are disinclined to invest in their properties and they are FAR less attractive to purchase, which would bring in new blood and new energy. Instead of thriving and growing, our town will be deserted and die off, awful and totally unnecessary!

Obviously the proposed sewer solution is a costly one and a difficult one for a town with a small tax base and a population of only 1,400. However, it is absolutely necessary for the health and economic growth of our town, its drinking water and the Housatonic River. We on the Economic Development Commission are unanimous in our support of this project and fully believe that this project will result in a vastly improved retail and social environment for the town and lead to a happy and thriving main street, employing locals, attracting visitors to our wonderful town once again.

Sincerely,



Janet Carlson Sanders, Chair, Cornwall Economic Development Commission

Members: Priscilla Pavel, Richard Bramley, Kate Sandemeyer Ward, Simon Hewett, Bianca Griggs, Lee Pryor, Arnon Fischer, Dee Salomon, Duncan Webb and Jane Herold

# Bonney Brook

CORNWALL ELDERLY HOUSING CORP.

DBA - BONNEY BROOK

33 Kent Road South ~ Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754

Board of Selectmen  
2021  
Town Hall – Pine Street  
Cornwall, CT 06753

April 1,

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to compliment the letter submitted by CHC President, Margaret Cooley which was also submitted to the Board of Selectmen for this meeting. I, too, am writing in support of the Town's application for a grant under the Community Project Funding program to help with the Waste Water Treatment project in West Cornwall.

I'm in agreement with Maggie Cooley and her words of support for the Waste Water Treatment project as I am in support of Amy Klobuchar for her statement, "It is time for us to make a real commitment to our rural communities by expanding broadband, by supporting our farmers, by building affordable housing and taking on rural poverty. That's how we leave no-one behind."

This is a wonderful town filled with the Haves More and the Haves Less. It has always ever been that way for the past 350+ years. The community exists and remain vital because there has been unflinching support to allow all boats to rise on a common tide of opportunity and good fortune. I dare say we've benefited from exactly that beginning 40 years ago and the spirit still sputters along these past few years. When we all are supported within this community then this is when we are at our best. When we can find common ground within our diversity and our economic differences, to give back and help create opportunity within our shared community, then we are fulfilling our greatest calling as human beings.

Sincerely,



William Calhoun, President  
Cornwall Elderly Housing Corporation

CORNWALL  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

P. O. Box 115, Cornwall, CT 06753  
7 Pine Street, Cornwall, Connecticut  
www.cornwallhistoricalsociety.org  
(860) 672-0505

March 29, 2021

The Board of Selectmen  
PO Box 97  
Town of Cornwall, CT 06753

Dear Gordon, Priscilla and Marina:

The Cornwall Historical Society Board of Directors enthusiastically supports the development of a state-of-the-art sewage disposal system for the town of West Cornwall.

The very existence of an important historical center in town is under threat. It was Cornwall's main industrial center in the 18th and 19th centuries with manufacturing enterprises powered by the Housatonic River. The character of the Village reflects that period since its buildings are well over 100 years old. The Village is connected to Sharon CT by our covered bridge built in 1862 and in use ever since. This lovely old structure has become a draw for tourists who look for amenities the village cannot now provide.

New businesses have come to the Village, more want to come, but the lack of a wastewater treatment facility stymies development.

Cornwall needs these businesses in order to thrive. It also owes the longtime residents of the Village the opportunity to ensure the safety of their water supply. Most of all, the Village wells will not be fouled by old malfunctioning septic systems and the river will not be polluted by their run-off.

This requires a state-of-the-art sewage disposal system, and we urge you to proceed with the disposal system development.

Sincerely,

John D Coffin  
Treasurer, Board of Directors

**CORNWALL HOUSING CORPORATION**  
**Post Office Box 174**  
**Cornwall, Connecticut 06753**

March 31, 2021

Board of Selectman  
Town Hall, Pine Street  
Cornwall, CT 06753

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Town's application for a grant under the Community Project Funding program to help with the proposed Waste Water Treatment project in West Cornwall.

The village of West Cornwall lies on a narrow strip of land between a ridge and river. It is also bisected by a railway line, and from the earliest days of the town was thickly settled with businesses and dwellings on small lots. There is generally no way for these small holdings, which must also find space for a well, to accommodate the kinds of septic systems now required by the State code.

The prohibitive cost of individual waste water systems is one of the most powerful enemies of affordable, inclusive housing, and also inhibits the ability of businesses to provide basic services or to expand. The chance to link into a town-wide treatment plant would mean that property owners might be able to create accessory apartments or that large dwellings might be converted into multi-family housing. Both of these initiatives are goals of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development and of the undersigned nonprofit organization.

Sincerely,



Margaret Cooley, President  
Cornwall Housing Corporation

Ginni Block Will Calhoun Hugh Cheney Margaret Cooley Bill Fairbairn  
Beth Frost Paul Prindle Kate Sandmeyer Ward Wayde Wolfe

# SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL!



**|Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission**

**Cornwall, CT 06753**

March 31, 2021,

To: The Board of Selectmen, Cornwall

Cornwall is seeking funding to bring a waste-water facility to West Cornwall Village. In the state of Connecticut, all projects that may involve state funding requests must have been requested by and planned for by town residents by participating in the creation of a Plan of Conservation and Development, otherwise referred to as "the Town Plan". The creation of a Town Plan is legislatively required every ten years and is the responsibility of the Town Planning Commission. The 2010 Town Plan of Conservation and Development expresses the desire of our citizens that the town pursue a waste-water treatment plant in West Cornwall. This village is located adjacent to a major Connecticut river, the Housatonic River, and is currently served by inadequate and aging individual septic systems. It is also a Commercial Zone with curbs on expansion imposed by water and septic limitations. In the section of the Town Plan devoted to Business and Commercial recommendations, the following was stated: "Evaluate the options for improving water supply sources and sewer waste treatment." And, ..."evaluate the feasibility of a location for a common septic system in the center area". It is clear that the proposal before you demonstrates how far the town of Cornwall has come in the process of realizing the desires of its citizens as expressed in the 2010 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Sincerely,  
Anna M. Timell, Chair  
Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission

W C V I A  
West Cornwall Village Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 122  
West Cornwall  
CT 06796

Dear Cornwall Board of Selectmen/women

3/31/2021

As a member of the WCVIA I would like to express our group's support for the Wastewater Management Facility in West Cornwall as proposed by the Town of Cornwall for the following reasons :

1. To proactively guide the environmental impact it will have in the future as old systems will be failing and will be impacting the Housatonic River in an otherwise negative way .
2. The Housatonic River being one of our most important natural and recreational resources for the local as well as regional , national and international community on all scales from River Tubing for the entire Family to Fly Fishing .
3. With that the positive impact of tourism a huge economic engine that can provide a local community with a need for businesses such as restaurants , cafés , bakeries , convenient stores , hospitality ventures as well as other types .
4. Thus creating once more places of employment local and regional .
5. Facilitating the local community with employment opportunities for all ages.
6. Which makes this area once more attractive to younger families .
7. Families that can become part of the volunteer fire department ensuring that such can properly function .
8. With more people permanently living in this area we create a higher demand for food from our small scale local Farms impacting their viability in a positive way as well .
9. And when an old system fails to a moderate income family in this area the cost to hook up into an existing system is a fraction of a new singular home septic solution and therefore more affordable . The family can remain in its community .

A Wastewater Management Facility is all around a positive implementation to our and all communities .

Best Wishes,  
Bianka Langner Griggs , treasurer WCVIA

**The West Cornwall Public Library Association  
The Hughes Memorial Library  
35 Lower River Road  
West Cornwall, CT 06796**

March 30, 2021

Hello Representative Hayes,

My name is Libby Mitchell and I am the Executive Director for the West Cornwall Public Library Association, aka The Hughes Memorial Library. I am writing today to express how important the need for community septic is to our town. I would argue that it is the most important issue confronting our community at this time.

The beautiful town of West Cornwall has historic buildings that cannot be used at all or have extensive restrictions on building usage. The Library's building at 35 Lower River Road has no septic system and no land on which to build one. That building is not being used. Because of this the library funded two community outreach projects at 415 Sharon Goshen Turnpike. Torrington Area Health, though, will not allow the use of the building's bathrooms by the public or on site dining at The Local, an indoor farmer's market where all profits flow back to the farmers. The reason for these restrictions is the building's septic system, which is not up to code.

A similar story repeats itself again and again in West Cornwall. Two homes share one well; one building has a septic system partially under the railroad tracks; one building has no septic and cannot build one because its neighbor's septic system is on their land. Each of these issues restrict usage of the building and have a negative impact on the environment.

**The septic infrastructure of West Cornwall needs a major overhaul in order for the town to fully utilize its buildings and protect the environment. Our town's viability depends on it and our community will thrive because of it.**

I appeal to you today, Representative Hayes, to help our community with this major infrastructure challenge. I am, as always, available to help in any way I can and encourage you to reach out to me if my presence would be beneficial.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Hughes Memorial Library  
[westcornwallunion@gmail.com](mailto:westcornwallunion@gmail.com)  
203-536-1712

[REDACTED]  
Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut 06754  
[REDACTED]

March 31, 2021

US Department of Agriculture  
Washington D.C.

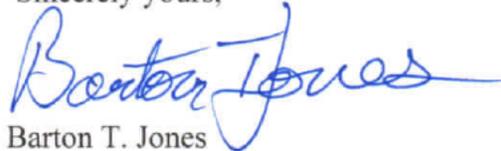
Re: Support for Town of Cornwall Grant Application to U.S. Department of Agriculture for funding through USDA's Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I strongly support the above captioned grant application by the Town of Cornwall to be used for the planning, acquisition and construction of a wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall Village incorporating state-of-the-art technology to build an appropriately sized, affordable plant.

I am writing this in my individual capacity as the Alternate Member for the Town of Cornwall on the Housatonic River Commission as a member of the Board of Directors of Housatonic Valley Association, Inc.

Sincerely yours,

  
Barton T. Jones

Cc: Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall, Connecticut



## Housatonic Valley Association

150 Kent Road  
PO Box 28  
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754  
T: (860) 672-6678

Merwin House  
14 Main Street  
PO Box 496  
Stockbridge, MA 01262  
T: (413) 298-7024

37 Furnace Bank Road  
PO Box 315  
Wassaic, NY 12592  
T: (845) 442-1039



April 5, 2021

To: Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall, CT  
From: Lynn Werner, Executive Director  
RE: Community Project Funding for Wastewater Treatment Project in West Cornwall, CT

Dear First Selectman Ridgway,

On behalf of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), I am writing to express our strong support for the town of Cornwall's application to the U.S. Congressional Committee on Appropriations for Community Project Funding to be used for planning and construction of the proposed wastewater treatment facility in West Cornwall.

As you know, HVA is the watershed conservation organization uniquely dedicated to the protecting the natural character and environmental health of the entire 1,948-square mile Housatonic River watershed.

West Cornwall, situated in the heart of the Housatonic River's scenic and recreation corridor in Northwest Connecticut, is an historic village with older septic systems that do not meet current health code requirements designed to protect ground and surface water quality including the Housatonic River. The Housatonic River is a waterway of local, state and national significance, widely recognized for its natural beauty and world class recreation including fishing, boating and swimming. Upgrading septic treatment in West Cornwall will alleviate water quality impacts on the Housatonic River from old systems now and into the future.

The Housatonic River is a local and national treasure. We enthusiastically support this grant request for Community Project Funding to help keep its waters clean and healthy.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Lynn Werner  
Executive Director

**IAN**  **INGERSOLL**  
P.O.B 101 WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

March 31, 2021

Reference: Support for Wastewater Treatment Facility

To Whom IT May Concern

We are all collectively supportive of this Wastewater Project as it will positively affect the health of our town. Please give this every consideration to help us accomplish this as it will affect this community both currently and for generations to come.



Ian Ingersoll  
President  
West Cornwall Village Improvement Association  
PO Box 101  
West Cornwall, CT

March 30, 2021

Eliz. Tobin

[REDACTED]

Cornwall Bridge CT 06754

To the Cornwall Board of Selectman and State Rep. Hayes,

I support the proposed septic intervention into the wastewater's management in West Cornwall Connecticut. A former resident of this beloved hamlet during the 1980s it was clear then that the moss/flora on the rocks by the post office were an unhealthy color/odor, and at times laundry suds were visible in the brook heading into the river. The moss and flora where the brook meet the river just above the covered bridge still do not appear/smell healthy.

Revising the stream of effluent will branch vastly into benefits for the town inhabitants, visitors and wildlife such as the eagle family upriver. So much work has improved the Housatonic river, it is important to seize the chance to build on this. In the 1960s I drank from many brooks in this region not knowing that would be a tragic bygone so soon.

During this time, we have had to examine our deepest values, this economically feasible endeavor aligns with our devotion to community health.

The wastewater building can serve as a guidepost for other communities perched on the waterways of this crowded country.

My perspective is that of a healthcare professional, gardener, parent, outdoorswoman, preservationist, voter and taxpayer.

I applaud your project.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tobin

Tobie Cornejo  
[REDACTED]  
West Cornwall, CT 06796

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the West Cornwall Wastewater project.

I've been coming to Cornwall on routine basis since 1996, and over that time have seen several businesses in West Cornwall come and go. When I first started visiting Cornwall there were several restaurants to choose from, there was a general store, a video store, a bookstore, a pottery store, among other businesses. Our family routinely spent time in town and it felt like most of the buildings had a lively street presence.

Over the last several years the opposite has been the case. Despite a few stalwart businesses and a wonderful farmers' market, there have been times when it has felt like half the town was empty and/or for sale. Lately, however, the tide seems to be turning, favorably for the future of the town. Most of the buildings that have been for sale have now changed hands. New businesses have started. Buildings have been painted and put to new use. All of this has brought new enthusiasm for the future of the West Cornwall town center and the many part-time residents who have spent more time in Cornwall recently because of Covid and the shift to working from home have only added to this changing tide.

To make this rebirth really take off however, it will be essential to create more and denser housing in West Cornwall and to make all the historic buildings in West Cornwall able to attract multiple types of new businesses – offices, restaurants, stores, workshops, studios, to name a few. These efforts can only take place if it is possible to safely and affordably treat wastewater without relying on traditional septic systems. To meet the related goals of preserving our historic town center, providing housing for new and existing residents across the age and economic spectrums, and to allow for current businesses to expand and for new ones to start, West Cornwall must simply make this investment. It will pay off for years to come.

I have attended several task force meetings on this topic, in addition to recent Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning, and Housing taskforce meetings over the past year, and also spent some time studying the previous and current town Plan of Conservation and Development. Investing in the wastewater treatment system is really the singular investment that is needed to make the highlighted goals of these plans take off – preserving our natural resources, providing a diversity of housing stock, attracting young families, supporting new businesses, and preserving and maintaining our historic buildings. All of these things will be that much easier and more possible if West Cornwall invests in this system.

Regards,

Tobie Cornejo  
[REDACTED]

# 406-407 WCCT LLC

March 31, 2021

Town of Cornwall, Connecticut  
P.O. Box 97  
Cornwall Connecticut 06753

**RE: Waste Water Treatment project in West Cornwall.**

To Whom It May Concern:

I own two commercial buildings on the eastern edge of West Cornwall. I have been investing and rehabilitating properties for many years in New York, Florida, and now Litchfield County, Connecticut. Regarding the proposed wastewater treatment project in West Cornwall, as a commercial property owner in the town, I want to take this opportunity to affirm my strong support for this project.

I know firsthand all of the challenges faced by business owners in small towns that have compounded over time. Despite this, the charm, character, and history of towns like West Cornwall presents a compelling opportunity to preserve our cultural heritage. Without a sewer treatment system in the town, it is almost impossible to open a food service establishment or many other types of venues which create wastewater therefore severely limiting the commercial potential of the town.

With this project, we are facing a unique revival opportunity in West Cornwall that will help attract new business investment that can capitalize on its historic charm. It is for these reasons that I firmly support this project!

Best regards,



William Betts