



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



June 23, 2022

Cornwall Board of Selectmen
Cornwall Town Hall
24 Pine Street
P.O. Box 97
Cornwall, CT 06753

RE: Proposed Wastewater Treatment in West Cornwall, CT

Dear First Selectman Ridgway, Cornwall Board of Selectmen, and West Cornwall Wastewater Committee,

On behalf of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), I'm writing to reiterate our strong support for the proposed wastewater treatment facility in the village of West Cornwall.

Protecting the health of the Housatonic River, its tributaries and surrounding waters is central to HVA's mission of conserving the environmental health of the Housatonic River watershed. The Housatonic River itself is a local and national treasure known for its world class beauty and recreation.

Protecting the River and its feeder groundwater and streams is paramount. But West Cornwall's older and/or sub-par septic systems do not meet current health code or environmental requirements for ground and surface water protection and pose an on-going pollution threat to these waters.

The proposed wastewater treatment system that was selected, a reverse osmosis system, is state-of-the-art technology that filters out a number of contaminants that many traditional soil-based septic systems and municipal sewer treatment facilities are simply not designed, or able, to treat. Among these many contaminants are nitrates. Nitrogen is one of the most significant threats to the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound, and removing it from our waters is a top goal of water managers.

The wastewater discharge from this type of treatment system will be cleaner than that of traditional community septic and wastewater treatment systems, and cleaner than the receiving waters of the Housatonic River.

We appreciate the work of the committee and members of the Cornwall community over the last six years in evaluating options and incorporating public feedback. We thank you for this opportunity to express our strong support for the proposed West Cornwall treatment system.

Warm regards,

Lynn Werner
Executive Director