



**TESTIMONY
CONNECTICUT WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2007**

RE: SUPPORT - HB-5069, AN ACT CONCERNING TAX WARRANTS

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or a population of about 2 1/2 million people, located throughout Connecticut. Membership in the Association is open to all Connecticut water utilities: investor-owned, municipal and regional authorities. As purveyors of public water supplies, our members have an obligation to provide sufficient quantities of high-quality water at a reasonable cost to consumers of the communities served. As an association, CWWA and its members have a keen interest in laws and regulations that affect water utilities or supplies.

CWWA supports HB-5069, An Act Concerning Tax Warrants, which will help facilitate the municipal collection of taxes owed for water, sewer and sanitation services by authorizing the use of tax warrants as a collection tool.

The use of tax warrants to compel voluntary payment from delinquent taxpayers is an effective mechanism for ensuring that towns are able to collect the revenues that are due them. As municipalities struggle to do more with less and the demand for municipal services continues to rise, we need to provide municipalities with more effective tools for collecting overdue bills. Tax warrants are a proven method of facilitating the collection of overdue bills. By giving municipalities an effective tool for collecting taxes owed for water, sewer and sanitation services, HB-5069 will bring some much needed revenue into the town coffers.

We urge lawmakers to support HB-5069.