



Town of Redding

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First Selectman

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To: The Honorable members of the Public Health Committee:

The Town of Redding wishes to commend you on raising Bill # 5900. One of the most pressing public health issues facing our state is the protection of our public drinking water supply. Over two million people currently depend on public water for sustenance, and that number will continue to grow as the state's population increases. It is imperative that we put into place today measures that will protect the public drinking water for the future. Delay is not an option.

Consequently, The Town of Redding strongly supports the intent of Bill #5900, but offers some technical suggestions to improve the language as drafted. The bill should address "Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed Land" as registered with the DPH, not "Water Company Land" as the bill currently states. Water Company Land already has statutory protection, which should now be extended to public drinking water supply watershed land.

While we fully support the new DPH process as outlined in the bill, we recognize that regulatory changes in a state agency can take quite a bit of time. Until the final process is in place, we strongly recommend that interim standards for development on public water supply watershed lands be implemented. To be consistent with the State Plan of Conservation and Development, a standard of 800 gallons of effluent daily per two acres should be established. This will give guidance to all and some protection to these valuable lands while permanent regulations are being devised.

With these two modifications, the Town of Redding is in full support of Bill #5900, and the effort to protect the public water supply for current and future residents of our state. The recent Associated Press investigation which found that pharmaceuticals have been detected in the water supplies of at least 41 million Americans should underscore the fact that we cannot take the purity of this necessity of life for granted.

We have been warned...it is altogether fitting and proper for our state leaders to now take action. Please revise, and then pass, Bill #5900. Thank you.

Natalie Ketcham
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