



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
March 3, 2008**

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**Senate/House Bill HB 5683 - An Act Concerning Water Reuse in Industrial and  
Process Application**

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The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 5683.

This bill defines "Gray Water" as treated or recycled water from a municipal wastewater treatment plant. This definition does not fit the common usage and as defined in Section 19-13-B103(b) of the Public Health Code nor in usage in DEP regulations. "Gray Water" is currently understood to mean "domestic sewage containing no fecal material or toilet wastes." Adoption of this definition will lead to confusion in the regulations. We suggest the term "Reclaimed Wastewater" be used instead.

Additionally we have concerns that if municipal wastewater is used in industrial or process systems that contain cooling towers or other devices that produce aerosols, potentially present pathogenic bacteria may become airborne and effect nearby populations. If the use of municipal wastewater is used in such systems or processes, regulations must ensure the water is adequately treated to remove any threat to the public health. A second alternative would be to allow municipal wastewater to be used in systems not open to the air. Appropriate engineering controls may also be needed to prevent potential contamination of public drinking water system from "reclaimed wastewater".

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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