



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)  
Before the  
Environment Committee  
March 16, 2009**

**Re: HB-6345, An Act Protecting the Natural Resources of the Highlands Regions.**

**CWWA opposes HB-6345, which would prohibit 50,000 gallons per day for nonmunicipal recreational use in certain regions.**

Public policies affecting water resources should not be shaped in response to one particular project. Rather, Connecticut needs to develop a comprehensive water allocation and management plan based on objective data, science and knowledge which balances the social, environmental, public health and safety and economic needs of water users.

Connecticut has begun to take steps to develop a comprehensive water allocation and management plan by undertaking water basin analyses and planning, which is currently being conducted by the Institute for Water Resources pursuant to Special Act 06-09. Only with a thorough and objective understanding of the various scientific and social implications of any decision making, can we achieve a more comprehensive, balanced, and protective state-wide water policy.

*The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ 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.*