



**TESTIMONY
ELIZABETH GARA
CONNECTICUT WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)
BEFORE THE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2009**

RE: HB-6469, An Act Concerning Smart Growth and State Planning

CWWA supports HB-6469, AN ACT CONCERNING SMART GROWTH AND STATE PLANNING, which directs the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at The University of Connecticut to conduct a state-wide build-out analysis to develop strategies for land use and to manage conservation and growth.

A build-out analysis can be an important tool for sustainable local land use planning. However, there are other issues that will also significantly impact local planning, including potable water capacity.

Our water supplies are vital to both the public health and the safety of our citizens. But many of us in Connecticut don't realize that despite a seemingly abundant supply of water and rainfall, as climate conditions change and Connecticut continues to grow and develop, we are placing additional stress on our water systems. Understanding the water capacity of an area is critical since future development is dependent upon the availability of adequate supplies of clean, safe, quality water. CWWA therefore urges the committee to incorporate consideration of water supply capacity in the proposed build-out analysis.

Conducting a build-out analysis will also be important in making decisions regarding how to allocate and manage our water supplies in ways that appropriately balance competing demands on water resources. As the state strives to develop policies affecting Connecticut's public water supplies, such as promulgating new stream flow standards, a build-out analysis as part of a comprehensive water allocation and management plan would be very beneficial.

CWWA would be pleased to work with the committee in addressing these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact CWWA's Executive Director, Elizabeth Gara, at 860-547-0566.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut. CWWA is committed to working with the state to develop policies that will ensure that Connecticut has a safe, ample supply of water to meet present and future needs.