



The Metropolitan District  
water supply · environmental services · geographic information

Testimony of Scott Jellison on:

**Raised Bill No. 851  
An Act Concerning Recreational and Educational Facilities of the Metropolitan District  
Commission**

My Name is Scott Jellison, Chief Operating Officer of the Metropolitan District Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 851, An Act Concerning Recreational and Educational Facilities of The Metropolitan District Commission.

This bill amends the District Charter to provide for the District to support active recreational and educational facilities on lands within the jurisdiction of the district. Under the current provisions of the MDC Charter, the District is restricted from participating in or supporting recreational and educational activities on non-reservoir lands except for such activities in the Towns of Glastonbury and Manchester, ironically two towns which are not members of the MDC.

This Bill would update the Charter to allow the District Board to consider, and vote to support requests for support of such activities within member towns and District jurisdiction.

This initiative to amend the Charter is in response to the request of the Science Center to support its programs with the establishment of a fund of \$150,000 a year for ten years to develop and maintain an exhibit at the Science Center dedicated to the water resources of the region and the improvements in water quality of the Connecticut River as a result of the District Clean Water Project. The effort to define the management and protection of the region's water supply and waste water treatment and water quality impacts is of great value to students and visitors to their understanding of the impact of human activity on the water resources of the region and the state.

The fiscal impact of this investment of \$150,000 is approximately 0.14% of the District budget and if all applied to the water rate only, which is about half the total budget, it would account for less than 1 cent increase on the current water rate.

I think it is important for the District to participate in the State's effort to revitalize the City of Hartford with the development of the Science Center and it is consistent with the District efforts to eliminate pollution from its aged sewer system and enhance the environment and infrastructure of the city and region.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on the bill.