



## *Town of Redding*

100 Hill Road, PO Box 1028  
Redding, Connecticut 06875

Natalie Ketcham  
First Selectman

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February 11, 2009

To the Honorable members of the Committee on Public Health;

Regarding Proposed Bill No. 5255

As the Chief Elected Official for the Town of Redding and as a gubernatorial appointee to the state's Responsible Growth Task Force and to the DEP Landscape Stewardship Advisory Committee, I wholeheartedly endorse the goals expressed in this proposed legislation. The protection of the state's precious watershed land is entirely consistent with the recommendations of the Responsible Growth Task Force, the DEP Green Plan, and the state Plan of Conservation and Development. It is imperative that we protect the purity of the state's future public drinking water supply, on which over two million residents currently depend.

In consideration of the actual language of the bill, I call your attention to the phrase "development of **water company** land located on public drinking water supply watersheds". I believe that "water company" should be deleted, as water company land does have some legislative protection. It is the over 400,000 privately owned watershed acres that are very vulnerable and need protection. The sentence could correctly read: "the sale or development of land located on public drinking water supply watersheds".

I applaud the effort in committee to address this pressing need before it is too late in our state. Positive action on your part will begin to put into action the smart growth recommendations for the proper future development of our great state.

Sincerely,

Natalie Ketcham  
First Selectman