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**Testimony to Environment Committee
February 6, 2009**

***RB 5484 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for
Extension of a Water Line from Middletown to Durham***

Connecticut Water Service is Connecticut's largest domestically based, investor owned water utility, serving a population of approximately 300,000 in 54 towns throughout Connecticut. We employ approximately 225 people and are proud of our long record of customer service, regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship.

In addition to operating our own water systems, we provide operating services for more than 100 water and wastewater systems throughout the State. We currently provide operations and management services for the Town of Durham's water system so are keenly interested in any proposals that affect that community's water system.

We are working with local leaders to provide water system operations and determine options to meet the future water supply needs in their community, which has had a history of water supply problems. We are not taking a position at this time whether this project should proceed as proposed but suggest that it is important that there be detailed discussions with local officials and all interested parties on the project. We are eager to be part of any such discussions as the various options are evaluated and would hope to have input as more details become available regarding this proposal.

Regrettably, there are many communities/neighborhoods in the state that have water quality problems and public water supply is often the best long term option for those areas. Ensuring that Connecticut's residents have safe, sufficient water supplies is a goal that we all share. The challenge is finding fair, equitable ways to prioritize and fund such projects, particularly in this current economic climate.

We look forward to working with the Town of Durham, Middletown Water and Sewer, and legislators to determine the best solution for this community. We also welcome the opportunity to explore ways to address these types of water supply issues statewide in a more comprehensive fashion in the future.