Connecticut Water Works Association
Working for Quality Water

Testimony
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the Environment Committee
February 18, 2009

RE: SB-790, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Invasive Plant Council

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) *supports* SB-790, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL, which strengthens efforts to eradicate invasive plants.

Every year, the introduction of harmful, non-native species into the U.S. has been increasing. Collectively, these nuisance species make tremendous impacts to different things valued by many Americans. Ultimately, the cost of invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic) in the United States amounts to more than $137 billion each year.

Invasive non-native plants are a concern to the state's water companies because they can grow rapidly, are very prolific and can create permanent and serious problems for the public water supplies that are very costly to mitigate. For example, certain species clog intake valves that impede the flow of water. Other species displace native plants that are important to source water protection efforts.

Strengthening enforcement efforts will help ensure that water companies can continue to deliver pure and adequate drinking water supplies to the citizens of the state.

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.

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