



**Testimony
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Energy Committee
Public Hearing
February 10, 2009**

Re: HB-5052, An Act Prohibiting Utility Company Surcharges for Credit Card Payments

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) opposes Proposed House Bill 5052, An Act Prohibiting Utility Company Surcharges for Credit Card Payments, which would prohibit utility companies from imposing a surcharge or fee on payments made by debit or credit cards.

To provide customers with the convenience of using credit and debit cards to pay their water utility bills, some water utilities, including municipal water departments, utilize a third-party vendor, which charges the customer a fee for this convenience. By disallowing this practice, HB-5052 would force utilities to spread that cost among all ratepayers or discontinue this service.

Such convenience fees are typically charged customers who pay bills or taxes using a third party vendor. The vast majority of customers recognize this.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut. Membership in the Association is open to all Connecticut water utilities: investor-owned, municipal and regional authorities. As purveyors of public water supplies, our members have an obligation to provide sufficient quantities of high-quality water at a reasonable cost to consumers of the communities served.