

Proposed Bill No. 5877  
 An Act Concerning the Mattabassett Wastewater Treatment District  
 Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing  
 February 9, 2009

**The Mattabassett District**  
**New Britain, Berlin and Cromwell**  
**Regional Sewer Authority**  
 Brian W. Armet, P.E. its Executive Director

The Mattabassett District is a Regional Sewer Authority made up of New Britain, Berlin and Cromwell Representatives. When it was created it was created to be equal, fair and reasonable to all of its constituents. As a result, membership on its 12 member Board was and is based upon the populations of its three Constituent Communities: New Britain, Berlin & Cromwell. Each community has a minimum of two (2) representatives with the balance based upon population. As a result, New Britain has 5 additional representatives for a total of seven (7) Board Members and Berlin has an additional representative for a total of three (3) Board Members. This pretty much tracks with their respective wastewater flows and respective payments for The District's operation which are summarized below.

	<u>New Britain</u>	<u>Berlin</u>	<u>Cromwell</u>	<u>Total</u>
2000 Population	71,538	18,215	12,871	102,624
Total Members	7	3	2	12
Representation	1/10,220	1/6,072	1/6,436	XXX
08-09 Budget	\$3,218,918	\$794,552	\$393,032	XXX
% Of Total Budget	47.6%	11.7%	5.8%	XXX
Flow % of Total Flow	69%	16.5%	7%	XXX
Bill 5877 to Provide increased representation to Cromwell				
Bill 5877 Proposal	7	3	4	14
Representation after 5877	1/10,220	1/6,072	1/3,218	XXX

This proposal to provide Cromwell with two additional Board Members for a total of four (4) is not a fair and reasonable proposal for a number of reasons. It will provide Cromwell, a well to do community and a minority owner of The District, and minority payer, with greater representation on the Board than its two constituent partners, New Britain and Berlin, which are larger communities. And, it will provide a greater economic advantage to a well to do community, Cromwell, to the disadvantage of New Britain a disadvantaged and depressed community, who pays considerably more towards The District's Operations than Cromwell. Berlin's fees are two times Cromwell's and New Britain's are 10 times greater than Cromwell's.

If this legislation is enacted it will provide Cromwell with a glaringly disproportionate representation: New Britain now has One representative for every 10,220 residents; Cromwell will go from One representative for every 6,436 people to One representative for every 3,218 residents. Definitely not equitable. And, Cromwell with only 7% of The District's flow and paying only 5.8% of The District's Operating Budget will have over 25% of the voting privileges. Again not equitable.

This proposed legislation does more harm than good. It will add to New Britain's burdens, a disadvantaged and depressed community, by taking away its fair representation on the Mattabassett Board. I do not believe that this committee and legislature want to enact legislation that benefits a well to do community to the disadvantage of a distressed and depressed community, and place further burdens upon that community.