



**TESTIMONY  
CONNECTICUT WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

**RE: HB-5567, AN ACT CONCERNING BLASTING NEAR RESIDENTIAL  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

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. CWWA is committed to working with the state to develop policies that will ensure that Connecticut has a safe, ample supply of water to meet present and future needs.

CWWA opposes **HB-5567, An Act Concerning Blasting Near Residential Neighborhoods**, which would limit the force of the blasting agent used for any location within a one mile radius of more than twenty residences. The state Department of Public Safety is authorized to promulgate regulations relative to blasting to address any limitations to minimize adverse impacts. This type of issue is better addressed by regulations with the input of industry, consumers and public officials.

Water companies periodically and routinely employ blasting in the normal course of business to ensure public water supply mains are properly installed consistent with state Department of Public Health regulations and guidelines. We therefore caution that requirements governing blasting much be crafted in such a way as to ensure that water companies may continue to meet their public health and safety obligations. Therefore, changes in the law regarding the radius for blasting pose concerns to the water industry because it may inadvertently prohibit us from doing the blasting needed to properly install water mains.