



**TESTIMONY
ELIZABETH GARA
CONNECTICUT WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BEFORE THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2010**

RE: HB-5240, An Act Excluding Environmentally Sensitive Areas from the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Process

CWWA would like to submit the following comments relative to **HB-5240, An Act Excluding Environmentally Sensitive Areas from the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Process**.

Connecticut has made tremendous strides in protecting open space and watershed lands to preserve the state's natural resources for future generations. We recognize and support that there are special considerations in the law to allow for affordable housing but ask that, to the extent the committee considers adding additional considerations with respect to environmentally sensitive areas, that they also add provisions specific to the protection of public water supplies.

Class I and Class II watershed land that is owned by water companies is protected under law from any development that may undermine the quality of the public water supply source. However, some watershed land is privately owned and not protected to the same degree. Again, we therefore ask that if the bill moves forward that it be amended to define environmentally sensitive areas as areas that may affect public water supplies.

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.