

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority  
P.O. Box 415, Gales Ferry, CT 06335-0415  
Telephone (860) 464-0232

Testimony  
James Fogarty, Chairman  
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority  
Before the  
Public Health Committee  
March 17, 2010

**Re: HB-5477, An Act Concerning Clean Water and Stream Flow Regulations**

**The Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) urges support for HB-5477 as it wisely addresses, in Section 2, the major concerns raised in response to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) recently proposed stream flow regulations.**

While SCWA applauds DEP's intent to protect and improve the quality of Connecticut's rivers and streams, it would be sensible to first classify all basins in the state to identify those rivers and streams having impaired stream flows. Section 2. (a) of HB-5477 requires this. Planning, with priorities for action, to comply with the new regulations could then be more realistically initiated statewide.

Section 2. (b) addresses the serious concern that the proposed regulations may adversely affect Connecticut's current potable water supply. It requires a review of the DEP classification results by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to determine if any public water supplies would be jeopardized by enforcement of the new regulations, and then to develop plans with the water supplier to address any such conflicts. This is a very reasonable method of coping with any public water supply deficits which may be identified by the new stream flow classifications. The supply and quality of drinking water is crucial to public health and ongoing economic development. Any sudden decreases would have serious adverse impacts on the area served; both immediate and long term.

Finally, Section 2. (c) properly involves the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) in reviewing potential costs of complying with the proposed new stream flow regulations for water companies and their rate payers. In extreme cases, new water sources or increased storage ability may be recommended. The financial cost of such infrastructure changes must be carefully considered, and the DPUC is the proper agency for this.

HB-5477 wisely includes the involvement and expertise of DPH and DPUC, along with DEP, in the initiation and implementation of new Connecticut stream flow regulations. Such a requirement will ensure more balanced future planning concerning Connecticut's water, its protection, and uses. Again, SCWA urges the Public Health Committee to support this bill.