



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Environment Committee
February 22, 2010**

Re: SUPPORT – SB-121, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF GENERAL PERMITS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) *supports SB-121*, which ensures that a general permit will remain in effect until a final decision on the renewal of the general permit is made. This is critical to providing parties with certainty that continuing to operate under the terms of the expired general permit will not subject them to potential violations and/or liability through no fault of their own. These gaps in coverage have created needless anxiety in the regulatory process and should be addressed.

We also urge lawmakers to encourage DEP to continue its efforts to enhance the general permit process in ways that will improve efficiency, expand permit flexibility, streamline the process and provide greater certainty in the process. Reducing the time and costs associated with the general permit process will allow water utilities to operate more efficiently so that they may continue to provide customers with an adequate, safe supply of water at a reasonable cost. We applaud the Department's efforts in this area and urge their continued focus on opportunities to improve the efficiency of the permitting while continuing to provide strong protections for our environment and natural resources.

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.