



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)  
Before the  
Environment Committee  
March 8, 2010**

**CWWA *supports* Section 3 of SB-205 - AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES ACT.**

Section 3 of SB-205 seeks to enhance Connecticut's efforts to protect our public water supplies by requiring an inland wetlands agency to consider the comments or testimony submitted by the state Department of Public Health or water companies relative to the impact of such activity on the state's public water supplies. Although current law allows DPH and water companies to comment on such proposed activities and to participate in any public hearing on the application or petition, these comments are not always considered, regardless of the potential impact on the quality or safety of public water supplies.

However, we are concerned with the addition of the following phrase in the law's preamble, "It is the public policy of the state to preserve and to prevent the despoliation and destruction of the inland wetlands and watercourses of the state." There is a significant body of caselaw which references the law's preamble which may be abandoned in light of the new language. Given the vagueness of the term "despoliation," which is not defined in the bill, we are concerned that this language may result in unintended consequences for the state's inland wetlands.

We urge lawmakers to support Section 3 of the bill.

*The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.*