

**Testimony of David Sutherland – Director of Government Relations
Before the Environment Committee – March 12th - 2010**

IN OPPOSITION TO BILLS 383 AND 386

I am here today on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to express our opposition to Bill 383 – AAC a State-wide Water Use Plan, and Bill 386 – AAC the Adoption of Regulations relating to Water Use, Planning and Protection.

Bill 386 would require actions that are already required in our statutes and are already being practiced. It would require DEP, prior to adopting regulations relating to water use and planning, to submit proposed regulations to DPH, DPUC, and the Water Planning Council. In regards to the DEP's currently proposed streamflow regulations, this is already required in Sec. 26-141b, and DEP has in fact consulted at length with these and other agencies, some of whom have submitted comments to DEP about the proposed regulations. Bill 386 is entirely unnecessary.

We would very much like to see the type of comprehensive water use plan called for in Bill 383, but we would be strongly opposed to any notion that the completion of such a plan should be required before DEP's proposed streamflow regulations are adopted. The Water Planning Council has been trying for eight or nine years to approach developing a state water use plan. From all indications, it would take many years before one could be completed. The proposed streamflow regulations provide a very reasonable and very lengthy process for providing and implementing one of the most crucial components of such a comprehensive plan. To delay these regulations while waiting for a plan to be completed would constitute an unacceptable stalling.