



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL**

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Senate Bill 386: AAC THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO
WATER USE, PLANNING AND PROTECTION**

March 12, 2010

TESTIMONY OF COMMISSIONER JOHN W. BETKOSKI

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) supports in concept Senate Bill No. 386 and adds the following comments. This bill attempts to formalize in statute a requirement that the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Utility Control and the Water Planning Council submit to the Department of Environmental Protection, and vice versa, any foreseeable issues or concerns that may result from the promulgation of regulations from any or the above entities regarding the use, planning or protection of water. However, the Department notes that this concept is already defined in the charge of the Water Planning Council which was legislatively created in 2001 to bring together the various state agencies and stakeholder resources to coordinate and create a forum in which to discuss and strategize on issues pertaining to water supply and water management issues.

Further, pursuant to Public Act 07-4, Section 2 (c) of June Special Session, a Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) was created for the purpose of assisting the Water Planning Council in researching and analyzing water industry issues. The WPCAG forms the necessary specialized workgroup to obtain the necessary information to analyze an issue and to formulate a report including recommendations for submission to the WPC.

Therefore, the Department notes that while well intentioned, this bill replicates the work of the existing Water Planning Council and the WPCAG to foster communications, analytics and strategizing efforts among agencies and stakeholders as it pertains to water issues.

The Department thanks the Committee for this opportunity to comment.