

February 24, 2011

Commerce Committee
Room 110, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

To: Members of the Commerce Committee

Re: SB 1020, An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development

We are writing you today to offer the support of the Middlesex Chamber for SB 1020, *An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development*. Our Chamber has been quite concerned about the DEP's stream flow regulation proposals which have been rejected twice by the Regulations Review Committee. We believe that SB 1020 strikes the right balance and will ensure that local communities retain sufficient water supplies to support economic development needs while also ensuring the health and safety of their citizens.

The language of this bill makes certain that any stream flow regulation proposals consider the effect that they will have on economic development projects; we believe this is critical. At a time when the state and its municipalities face huge budget deficits, we simply cannot afford a water related mandate that would require large sums of public money to implement. SB 1020 helps address these concerns by instituting a more reasonable approach to water related regulation that would exempt compliance where it is not feasible or fiscally sensible. The fact that this bill also requires state agencies to work together to form a comprehensive and reasonable policy is very encouraging.

In closing, we want to reiterate the Chamber's support for SB 1020. We thank you for the opportunity to get on the record.

Sincerely,



Rich Carella
Co Chair
Legislative Committee
Middlesex Chamber



Rick Parmelee
Co Chair
Legislative Committee
Middlesex Chamber