



Testimony
Robin Wilson
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the Commerce Committee
February 24, 2011

Re: SB-1020, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *supports SB-1020* to address serious concerns with proposed stream flow regulations, as follows:

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY NEEDS OF CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES - Hospitals, nursing homes, manufacturers, restaurants and other businesses of all sizes and types rely on a safe, adequate supply of potable water to operate their businesses and meet the needs of their customers. However, the proposed stream flow regulations would significantly reduce the amount of water available to meet these needs. SB-1020 helps address this concern by ensuring that a public water suppliers' safe yield/margin of safety is not compromised.

CONNECTICUT ECONOMY - Connecticut faces significant challenges in creating a competitive business climate due to high taxes, unemployment and workers compensation costs as well as escalating energy and housing costs. Connecticut lost more than 100,000 jobs since the recession began in March 2008. We need to focus our leadership on the serious problems immediately facing this state in order to build a more competitive business climate. It is our understanding that less than 1% of the streams in Connecticut are documented as having flow impairment issues. Given the magnitude of the state's economic and budgetary problems, and the limited scope of stream flow impairments, we support SB-1020 which will require the regulations to be developed in concurrence with the state Department of Economic and Community Development and other agencies to ensure that they do not further undermine Connecticut's competitiveness.

STATE BUDGET CRISIS - Given a budget deficit of between \$3.6 and \$3.8 billion, the state needs to reduce the size and cost of government and focus on providing core services to Connecticut residents and businesses. We therefore applaud the section of the bill that calls for the state to establish priorities for compliance and exempt compliance where it is not technically feasible or fiscally prudent.

We believe SB-1020 provides the framework for a more workable, balanced approach to addressing stream flow and urge its adoption.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 800 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.

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