



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Public Hearing – February 24, 2011
Commerce Committee

Testimony Submitted by Robert N. Beaumont
Chairman, Wallingford Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

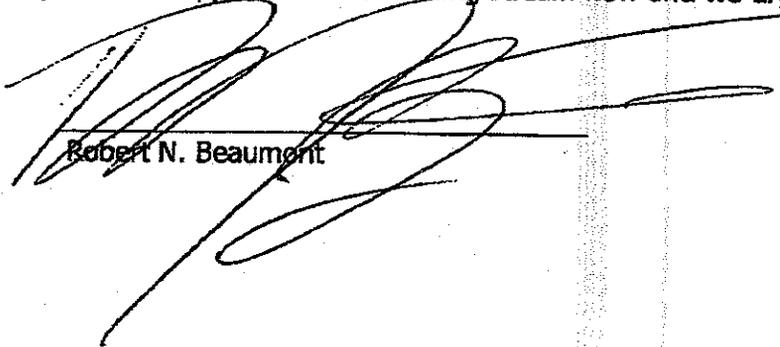
Raised Senate Bill No. 1020 - An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development

The Town of Wallingford strongly *supports the intent of SB-1020*, which is aimed at addressing fundamental concerns with the state Department of Environmental Protection's revised stream flow regulations. We believe this legislation is necessary in order to achieve the proper balance between the objective of improved aquatic ecology and the obligation to provide an adequate and reliable supply of water for Connecticut's residents and businesses.

Based on our review of the revised regulations we believe that their implementation would have a significant negative impact on the 14,000 customers who rely on the Wallingford Water Division for their potable water requirements. The releases called for by the regulations would reduce the Safe Yield of Wallingford's surface water reservoirs by more than 25%. Currently these reservoirs provide 90% of our Town's water needs. The cost to reconfigure our system to replace this loss of capacity would be significant, in the range of \$10 million.

Given the impact that the proposed regulations would have on Wallingford and on many other Connecticut water systems, we believe it is critical that SB-1020 be enacted in order to protect the safe yield of our state's public water supply systems. We also believe that the passage of SB-1020 will ensure that the DEP will work in concurrence with other state agencies to develop final regulations that address the economic impact of release rules on Connecticut's communities and on the customers of our state's water systems.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments. We believe SB-1020 provides the framework for a more workable, balanced approach to addressing stream flow and we urge its adoption.


Robert N. Beaumont