

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut 06511-5966 203-562-4020  
<http://www.rwater.com>

Testimony to the Energy and Technology Committee

**Raised Bill 6592, An Act Concerning the Operations of the  
Department of Public Utility Control**

March 15, 2011

*The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (SCCRWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the State. Our mission is to provide our customers with high quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 51 million gallons of water per day to an estimated 430,000 consumers in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. More than 27,000 acres of these watershed and aquifer areas are protected as open space as a result of the Authority's efforts and efforts with partners. Within the 20 member towns of our water district, we own and operate a public water system, which includes 10 active reservoirs, 4 surface water treatment plants and 7 ground water treatment plants.*

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Energy and Technology Committee regarding Raised Bill 6592, An Act Concerning the Operations of the Department of Public Utility Control, to substantiate our request for two changes to certain sections.

Sections 18, 19 and 20 would provide for DPUC jurisdiction over covered entities to, among other things, investigate, enter premises, fine and require certain filings. The definition of "covered entity" on lines 1020 through 1038 is very broad and could possibly result in exposing virtually any entity to DPUC investigations, etc. We do not believe that the legislature's definition of covered entity is meant to capture political subdivisions and municipal districts currently outside the Department's jurisdiction. As such, **we would request that the Committee provide an exemption that "covered entity" does not mean a political subdivision or municipal district.**

Additionally, Section 13 on lines 271 through 386 is making changes to Section 16-41 (CGS) regarding the Department's imposition of civil penalties. With the insertion of "person, as defined in section 16-1" on lines 285 and 286, we believe **there should be a clarification to lines 880-882 of HB 6592 to clarify that "person" in CGS Section 16-1(36) does not include a political subdivision or municipal district.**

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority was created in 1977 and 1978 by special act (77-98 and 78-24) by the Connecticut General Assembly and further amended in subsequent years for the primary and public purpose of providing and assuring the provision of an adequate supply of pure water and the safe disposal of wastewater at reasonable cost within the District and, to the degree consistent with the foregoing, of advancing water conservation and the conservation of compatible recreational use of land held by the Authority. Those Special Acts provide for a Representative Policy Board, which is comprised by one elector from each city and town within the District who is appointed by the chief elected official of the city or

Page Two

town, with the approval of its legislative body as well as one elector who is appointed by the governor. The RPB, in turn, is responsible for appointing an "Authority" comprised of five members. The 1977 and 1978 special acts provide many broad powers necessary for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority to carry out its legislative mandate.

Further, Section 28 of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's enabling legislation specifically provides that "Neither the public utilities control authority nor any successor board or commissioner shall have jurisdiction of any kind over the authority, a subsidiary corporation, the representative policy board or the rates fixed or charges collected by the authority". The enabling legislation does allow for RWA to file a DPUC annual report each year.

As a result of the contents of the specific legislation that created the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, we request that the Committee amend Raised Bill 6592 to provide the above requested exemptions. Thank you for your attention to our request. We would be pleased to provide further information or answer any questions the Committee has.