

**TESTIMONY
JONATHAN AVERY
PRESIDENT
HAZARDVILLE WATER COMPANY
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 7, 2011**

Re: HB-6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations

Hazardville Water Company appreciates the opportunity to comment in opposition to HB-6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations.

We need to ensure that the proposed regulations do a better job of balancing the needs of needs of the residents and businesses in our communities with protecting the state's aquatic life. Although we are hopeful that the current negotiations will be helpful in developing a more balanced stream flow regulatory framework, we are very concerned that HB-6505 will undermine those negotiations. Adding groundwater into the stream flow mix without addressing fundamental concerns that continue to plague the regulations will severely impact many communities.

We need to build greater certainty into the stream flow regulations by stipulating that rivers and streams downstream from existing public water supply diversions or areas of economic concerns are classified as Class 3 or 4. By clarifying this, the regulated community has a better sense of how to plan to modify dams and infrastructure in order to make the required releases as well as whether new sources of supply will be needed to offset the water being released into the streams.

Unfortunately, as currently drafted, the regulations fail to protect a public water suppliers safe yield and we are concerned that the regulations will therefore require releases into the rivers to protect the fish, to the detriment of people.

Thank you for considering our position in **opposition to HB-6505**