



SB 415

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM, WATER CONSERVATION AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

March 15, 2012

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony to you today. My name is Bryan Misenheimer and I am the Plant Manager at Coca-Cola Refreshments' East Hartford facility. In that capacity I have the privilege to be part of a team of over 800 fellow Connecticut residents who manufacture, sell, and distribute Coca-Cola products throughout the Northeast.

Our employees live and work in this area. Our children go to school here and our families are deeply connected to this community. We are baseball coaches, PTA members, student mentors and neighborhood volunteers. We play a role in economic development, provide job opportunities and pay taxes. We recognize that our success depends on the sustainability of the communities in which we operate – and for us, that means having positive economic, social and environmental impacts on local communities. Our commitment to sustainability – what we call Live Positively – is a modern expression of our Company's heritage of caring about people and our planet.

As you can imagine, water is a high priority for the Coca-Cola system – it is the main ingredient in all of our beverages, in the agricultural ingredients needed to produce our beverages and an important part of our manufacturing processes. Water is essential to the sustainability of our business.

Throughout the Coca-Cola system, we are intensely focused on water stewardship, giving attention to three areas: improving our water efficiency; recycling the water used in our operations (wastewater treatment); and replenishing through community water access and watershed restoration and protection. Ultimately, we strive to return to nature an equivalent amount of water used in our beverages and their production.

Our system-wide water efficiency has improved significantly of the past 8 years. We focus on minimizing the water we use in our cleaning and manufacturing processes. By conserving water through technologies and innovations such as water reclaim systems, replacement of water rinsers in our plants with air rinsers, and others, we have improved our water efficiency by 11 percent since 2005 in East Hartford.

To help ensure the sustainability of the watersheds in which we operate, we are creating source water protection plans for all of our facilities. These plans help us understand potential water quality or scarcity threats. We then identify and promote sustainable water resource management practices in order to reduce risk and provide valuable information to share with local communities. In completing East Hartford's plan, I led a delegation that met with Connecticut Metropolitan District Commission.

East Hartford is Coca-Cola's only manufacturing facility in Connecticut. Other regional manufacturing facilities are located in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. As decisions are made where production occurs, a variety of factors are considered, including the price and predictability of the price of water. When costs at East Hartford go up or are not predictable, production may shift to other regional facilities. Similarly, when prices for water are predictable at East Hartford it allows for more production to be shifted to the facility.

We are concerned with language currently contained in Sec. 60 of SB 415 regarding “(1) Rate designs that promote conservation including, but not limited to, inclining block rates, seasonal rates, peak period rates or drought rates, (2) implementation of measures to provide more timely price signals to consumers,” that would allow water entities to adjust rates in peak usage times in order to encourage conservation. As set forth above, we support the conservation mission and live it everyday. However, rate stability and predictability is of critical importance to our production process. Increased rates during peak usage times would only have the effect of shifting Coca-Cola's production need to other facilities outside of Connecticut. In other words, without rate stability and predictability we risk shifting production to other jurisdictions and losing employees.

Thank you for your time today and I and the CCR team look forward to the opportunity to work with the committee to discuss this proposed language and balance the needs of CT's manufacturing needs as well as sustainable water resource management practices.