



*Connecticut Chapter*  
*645 Farmington Ave.*  
*Hartford, Connecticut 06105*  
[www.connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org)  
Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Energy and Technology Committee  
February 7, 2013

Testimony In Support of  
SB 807, Sections 1-4, 6-7  
An Act Concerning Water Infrastructure and Conservation,  
The Department of Public Health, Municipal Reporting Requirements  
And Unpaid Utility Accounts at Multi-family Dwellings

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. I am also a Director of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

The existing rate structure for water companies prevents them from promoting water conservation, as their income is tied directly to quantity sold. Although Connecticut is a relatively water rich state, with about 45" of rain annually, it is nevertheless important to conserve water. Demand can sometimes overrun supply, and occasional droughts can significantly deplete resources. We now have streamflow regulations to ensure that our rivers and streams have sufficient water to remain ecologically viable. For the first time, we legally recognize them as an important class of water consumers, and must take steps to ensure water availability for this newly recognized need.

The concept of rate structures which financially allow the water companies to promote conservation practices to their customers was introduced several times in legislation in the 2012 session, but none of them reached the finish line.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of SB 807 call for PURA to design and implement these water conservation rates. Section 4 provides for conservation opportunities for municipal and public utilities. Sections 6 and 7 expand the opportunities for conservation and minimization of distribution losses under the Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment program.

The Sierra Club strongly endorses these sections of the bill. We make no comment on the remaining sections.