

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

February 21, 2013

SB-888 - AN ACT CONCERNING WIRELESS BROADBAND

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 48 million gallons of water per day to almost 500,000 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. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education, and research. This includes commercial sawtimber harvests and a firewood cutting program. The vast majority of our land and these activities occur within the New Haven County emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine zone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Energy and Technology Committee regarding **Raised Bill 888, An Act Concerning Wireless Broadband**.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority **supports Raised Bill 888, An Act Concerning Wireless Broadband**. The bill would add telecommunications towers to the list of uses that can be allowed on Class 1 and 2 water company lands subject to the review and approval of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Water utilities in Connecticut own thousands of acres of land with the vast majority used for protecting sources of public water supply. Telecommunications towers currently exist on SCCRWA and privately owned properties within the SCCRWA's public water supply watershed areas and have had no adverse impact on the quality of our water supply sources. We believe that through careful planning, siting, and design, water company lands can be used to serve telecommunications public needs in a manner compatible with public water supply protection goals. The design, construction, and operation of telecommunications towers and ancillary facilities would continue to fall under the purview of the DPH water company lands permit process, which requires that any change in use of Class 1 and 2 water company lands not have a significant adverse impact upon the present and future purity and adequacy of the public drinking water supply.

For more information, please contact John Hudak, Environmental Planning Manager at, 203-401-2733 or jhudak@rwater.com