



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA)  
Before the  
Energy Committee  
March 5, 2013**

**RE: HB-6473 - AN ACT CONCERNING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION, THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, ELECTRIC SUPPLIER DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, THE CALL BEFORE YOU DIG PROGRAM, AND MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE UTILITY STATUTES.**

CWVA has concerns with the wording of **Section 5 of HB-6473**, which specifies a timeline for providing notice to customers of rate increases.

There are occasions when the date, time and location of the public hearing is revised late in the process, which makes it difficult to provide that information in a notice that must be provided not earlier than six weeks and no later than one week before the hearing.

CWVA also requests a technical change to this bill to **allow water companies to impose late charges on unpaid bills after 28 days rather than one month, consistent with electric suppliers**. Because the time frame involved in preparing and mailing the delinquent notice, late charges are not included on the bill until the second monthly bill. As a result, customers questions why late charge have been incurred. Allowing late charges to be imposed after 28 days would not add any costs to the customer's bill but it would address the confusion that results when the late charges are added to the second monthly bill.

*The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWVA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.*