



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE March 7, 2013**

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### **Senate Bill 1035 - An Act Concerning Regulation of Water Companies**

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The Department of Public Health (DPH) opposes Senate Bill 1035.

Oversight of public drinking water systems and sources is a fundamental public health protection program. The DPH has authority over public water systems, water companies and public drinking water sources, including assuring purity and adequacy of public drinking water. This oversight is aligned with the DPH mission statement to protect and improve the health and safety of the people of Connecticut by assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy; preventing disease, injury, and disability, and promoting the equal enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, which is a human right and a priority of the state.

To conduct a feasibility study to determine the practicality of reorganizing the regulation of water companies from DPH to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), an agency statutorily charged with regulating the rates and services of Connecticut's investor owned companies, would require a substantial investment of state resources. The regulation of water companies is most appropriate to remain in the state's public health agency.

Water companies produce a consumable product. If this product is not appropriately regulated, the public can be negatively affected by contamination, illness or disease. It is the human health focus that has protected the consumers of public drinking water from illness for over a century under the guidance and oversight of Connecticut's Department of Public Health.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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