



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Environment Committee
March 7, 2014**

Re: SUPPORT - HB-5420, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDS FOR WATER SUPPLIES IN CONTAMINATED AREAS

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5420**, which assists towns in addressing public water supply concerns in areas impacted by contamination.

HB-5420 amends Section 22a-471 of the general statutes, which authorizes the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to arrange for the short-term provision of potable drinking water where groundwater pollution has created an unreasonable risk for health or safety.

Under the existing funding formula, reimbursement is generally limited to the installation of smaller-sized pipes to meet the short-term potable water needs of the resident(s) affected by the groundwater pollution. Towns that need additional capacity and are interested in installing a larger sized pipe to provide water supplies for firefighting and/or economic development projects are penalized under the existing formula.

This current funding formula is inefficient because it encourages the installation of water systems that can only meet the short-term potable water needs rather than the installation of an appropriately sized system to meet the additional water supply needs of the community.

COST urges your support for HB-5420.