



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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### Testimony

## HB 5420: An Act Concerning Funds For Water Supplies In Contaminated Areas

### Environment Committee

**March 7, 2014**

Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Senator Chapin, Representative Gentile, Representative Shaban, and Members of the Committee. I would like to thank you for raising House Bill 5420 An Act Concerning Funds For Water Supplies In Contaminated Areas and providing the opportunity for those who do not have access to clean water to testify on the significance of this proposal.

I am here to speak in favor of Raised House Bill 5420 which will provide aid to towns affected by water pollution not of their own making. The Town of Durham, which I represent, has been fighting against contaminated groundwater at multiple locations and for multiple reasons, including natural arsenic pollution, two EPA Superfund sites, and MTBE contamination.

Affected residents and businesses currently depend on bottled water and water filtration systems, but this is not a long term solution. House Bill 5420 will enable towns to develop and fund permanent solutions to polluted groundwater and provide enough potable water to meet public health, firefighting and economic development needs. For Durham, this will mean installing a new water tank to serve its residents, at an estimated cost of \$8.5 to \$13 million dollars. State grant funding would go a long way towards helping the town and its residents afford this project.

I would also like to bring to your attention a similar bill, Raised Senate Bill 306 An Act Allocating Funding For The Provision Of Potable Water To Certain Communities And Reauthorizing The Commissioner Of Energy And Environmental Protection To Provide Potable Water To Communities Under Certain Circumstances. The issue of clean water is a statewide issue, not just limited to Middlesex County. We need to work to provide towns with the tools to serve their citizens and provide a most basic necessity: clean water.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and thank you for your consideration of these two bills.

Noreen S. Kokoruda  
State Representative, 101<sup>st</sup> District