



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

RE: SUPPORT - SB-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 Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) strongly *supports* **SB-306**, which restores the Potable Water Program administered by the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) repealed last year under Public Act 13-247.

The Potable Water Program is vital to assisting towns in meeting the public health needs of residents in areas in which water supplies have become contaminated due to pollution. The program is relied upon to provide bottled water and install and maintain treatment systems in areas where the Commissioner of Public Health has determined that the groundwater pollution creates or can reasonably be expected to create an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of residents in the area.

Clearly, addressing the public health and safety of individuals in areas impacted by polluted wells should be a top priority.

COST urges your support for SB-306.

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