



**Testimony**  
**Elizabeth Gara**  
**Connecticut Water Works Association**  
**Before the Energy Committee**  
**March 4, 2014**

CWWA also submits the following comments relative to **HB-5409, AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE**, which defines hydraulic fracturing waste traveling in the state as hazardous waste and an assessment of hydraulic fracturing waste by DEEP.

As public water suppliers, CWWA members strive to provide customers with a safe, adequate supply of quality water. To assist in meeting this goal, water utilities closely monitor emerging issues and policies that may impact water quality.

Recently, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) developed a white paper, *Water & Hydraulic Fracturing*, to examine issues relating to fracturing and any potential impact on public water supplies, which can be accessed at [awwa.org/fracturing](http://awwa.org/fracturing). The paper concludes that “the risks associated with oil and gas production – including hydraulic fracturing – *can be managed via prudent and reasonable protections implemented through a combination of state and federal regulations, best practices, and monitoring.*”

We are therefore supportive of the efforts of DEEP to regulate fracking waste and ensure that natural gas imported into Connecticut has been developed according to the highest environmental standards, as recommended in the Governor’s Energy Strategy. We are also supportive of the recommendation included in the Energy Strategy to establish a “no leakage” target for the pipelines bringing gas to Connecticut.

Accordingly, it is important to ensure that DEEP is authorized to regulate fracking wastes to develop prudent and reasonable protections to manage any risks associated with the storage such wastes.

It is also important, in determining whether to prohibit the storage or disposal of fracking waste in Connecticut, to understand that public water supplies are subject to extensive state and federal laws and regulations to ensure that public water supplies meet water quality standards which protect the public health and safety of residents. In addition to extensive water quality testing for more than 83 potential contaminants, water companies are also required to treat all surface waters used for public water supply; closely monitor water quality and remediate any water quality concerns.

CWWA will continue to monitor issues relating to fracking waste and water quality and would be happy to discuss these issues more fully with committee members as they consider this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

*The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) 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.*