



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Government Administration & Elections Committee
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) supports **SB-349, AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**, which requires each state agency to determine whether a proposed regulation is of significant impact.

Water companies are subject to numerous, complex state and federal regulations. The current regulatory process does require preparation of a fiscal note and this has been very helpful, to some extent, in ensuring that lawmakers and regulators understand the impact of a proposed regulation on the state, municipalities and small businesses.

This process, however, would benefit from greater focus on the short and long-term impact of a proposed regulation on the state's economy. For example, due to the complexity and costs involved with many regulations, timeframes for compliance are extended out many years. Under current law, however, state agencies are only required to determine the fiscal impact for the first three years following adoption of the regulation. This is inadequate from a budgeting standpoint because it does not reflect costs associated with compliance beyond the first three years.

In fact, many states are realizing the importance of accurate fiscal notes that consider both short and long-term impacts on costs as well as the economy. Several states already require agency regulations and/or legislation to consider long-term fiscal impacts in order to make informed decisions about whether to proceed with new laws and regulations.

CWWA urges your support for SB-349.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut. Membership in the Association is open to all Connecticut water utilities: investor-owned, municipal and regional authorities. CWWA is committed to working with the state to develop policies that will ensure that Connecticut has a safe, ample supply of water to meet present and future needs.