



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Water Works Association  
Before the  
GAE Committee  
March 3, 2014**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) commends the efforts of Governor Malloy and lawmakers to eliminate and/or streamline outdated, unnecessarily burdensome, inefficient or ineffective regulations.

Our members, who are comprised of municipal water departments, private water companies and regional water authorities, identified several laws and regulations that are outdated, burdensome or otherwise inefficient and submitted this information to the Governor's Office pursuant to Executive Order 37. We are working with the appropriate state agencies as well as seeking legislation to address some of these issues.

CWWA therefore supports the intent of **HB-5049** which eliminates numerous outdated regulations.

Recognizing the value of periodically reviewing and updating agency regulations, CWWA also supports the intent of **SB-272, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIXED TIME PERIOD FOR AGENCY REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS** and **HB-5358, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE OR BURDENSOME REGULATIONS.**

SB-272 and HB-5358 are aimed at creating a formal mechanism for reviewing agency regulations on an ongoing basis.

CWWA believes these efforts are vital to improving the efficiency of state government and ensuring that the state does not impose unnecessary and duplicative burdens on businesses operating in this state. We recommend that this *process include an opportunity for public comment on a regular basis* to ensure that regulated entities have a voice in efforts to improve the state's regulatory climate.

Periodically reviewing and obtaining input on agency regulations is important because there are many cases where concerns arise due to the interpretation or application of the regulations by agency staff and not the regulations as promulgated. Under these circumstances, it may be necessary to clarify or narrow the scope of the regulations to reflect the intent of the enabling legislation.