

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

February 24, 2014

HB 5220 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER'S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR LIMB

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide high quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We serve some 430,000 customers in the region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education, and research.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, (RWA), appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Judiciary Committee in **OPPOSITION** to Raised House Bill 5220 - **AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER'S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR LIMB.**

The language in the proposed bill seems to be vague and uncertain. As such, HB 5220 should be revised to focus on trees that pose a hazard to adjacent property and the identification of hazardous trees must be made by a licensed Arborist.

In addition, forest, farm, or open space land should be exempt, at least if such forest, farm, or open space land use predates the current use of the abutting property.

Lastly, the State Vegetation Management Task Force recommendations should guide any new legislation about hazardous trees.

Thank you for considering the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's comments. If you have additional questions please contact, Lori Vitagliano, RWA Government Relations Specialist at 203-401-2720 or lvitagliano@rwater.com