

To: Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: James T. LaCroix, 115 Hawthorne Mead Drive, Glastonbury, CT

Date: March 14, 2014

Subject: **SB-332, An Act Amending the Charter of the Metropolitan District in Hartford County**

I am in total support of SB-332 which introduces measures to amend the Charter that created and governs the MDC.

In its very basic elements, the MDC is a utility that services the public and it operates as a monopoly for those within its service area. There is something fundamentally wrong when an organization created in this fashion:

- Reports only to itself and, unlike other utilities, does not have regulatory oversight by a body such as the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
- Does not allow any representation of the non-member towns in its service area which have no voice in MDC financial matters or any other matters to protect the interests of their residents who are MDC customers
- Is not as transparent as it needs to be
- Charges whatever it wants – whenever it wants - for water, the most precious resource that sustains life. The attached summary of quarterly billing rates clearly demonstrates the MDC's recent activity in this regard.

If there is any doubt about the length to which the MDC can go with the unchecked authority it currently has, all you need to do is look at the Non-Member Town Surcharges the MDC implemented in 2012 and 2013. The 2013 Surcharge is eight times the 2011 Surcharge (\$105.75 vs. \$13.17). They've lowered this in 2014 after the outcry expressed during last November's public hearing, however, they still intend to collect the same amount they originally sought, but over a longer period of time.

While the Charter that created the MDC in the 1920s may have been appropriate for those times, it is antiquated by the minimum standards for transparency, oversight and representation that exist in the modern era. The Charter for the MDC has to change. This Bill addresses the major problems and I urge you to support it.

Thank you.

James T. LaCroix

**MDC quarterly billing rates**

<u>year</u>	<u>effective</u>	<u>water consumption charge/CCF</u>	<u>customer service charge</u>	<u>non-member town surcharge</u>	<u>Glastonbury surcharge</u>	<u>total surcharge</u>	<u>total fixed</u>
1988		\$0.90	\$5.92	\$5.09	\$0.00	\$5.09	\$11.01
1989	3/29/89	\$0.93	\$6.16	\$5.29	\$0.00	\$5.29	\$11.45
1990	3/28/90	\$0.96	\$6.47	\$5.55	\$0.00	\$5.55	\$12.02
1991	1/1/91	\$0.99	\$6.79	\$5.83	\$6.30	\$12.13	\$18.92
1992	1/1/92	\$1.04	\$7.13	\$6.12	\$6.54	\$12.66	\$19.79
1993	1/1/93	\$1.08	\$7.40	\$6.36	\$6.39	\$12.75	\$20.15
1994	1/1/94	\$1.12	\$7.70	\$6.61	\$7.05	\$13.66	\$21.36
1995	1/1/95	\$1.15	\$7.93	\$6.81	\$7.35	\$14.16	\$22.09
1996	1/1/96	\$1.20	\$8.17	\$6.85	\$7.42	\$14.27	\$22.44
1997	1/1/97	\$1.23	\$8.37	\$7.19	\$7.21	\$14.40	\$22.77
1998	1/1/98	\$1.31	\$8.58	\$7.56	\$6.42	\$13.98	\$22.56
1999	1/1/99	\$1.33	\$8.75	\$7.53	\$6.42	\$13.95	\$22.70
2000	1/1/00	\$1.35	\$8.93	\$7.68	\$6.42	\$14.10	\$23.03
2001	1/1/01	\$1.38	\$9.11	\$7.83	\$6.42	\$14.25	\$23.36
2002	1/1/02	\$1.45	\$9.38	\$8.07	\$6.42	\$14.49	\$23.87
2003	1/1/03	\$1.49	\$9.66	\$8.31	\$6.42	\$14.73	\$24.39
2004	1/1/04	\$1.57	\$10.24	\$8.82	\$6.42	\$15.24	\$25.48
2005	1/1/05	\$1.77	\$11.57	\$9.96	\$6.42	\$16.38	\$27.95
2006	1/1/06	\$1.84	\$12.03	\$10.35	\$6.42	\$16.77	\$28.80
2007	1/1/07	\$1.96	\$12.75	\$10.98	\$6.42	\$17.40	\$30.15
2008	1/1/08	\$2.21	\$14.38	\$12.39	\$6.42	\$18.81	\$33.19
2009	1/1/09	\$2.07	\$13.47	\$11.61	\$6.42	\$18.03	\$31.50
2010	1/1/10	\$2.12	\$13.80	\$11.88	\$6.42	\$18.30	\$32.10
2011	1/1/11	\$2.35	\$15.30	\$13.17	\$6.42	\$19.59	\$34.89
2012	1/1/12	\$2.43	\$39.30	\$39.54	\$6.42	\$45.96	\$85.26
2013	1/1/13	\$2.50	\$40.44	\$105.75	\$6.93	\$112.68	\$153.12

**Total**

**\$343.13**

**2013/1988**

**2.78x**

**6.83x**

**20.78x**

**22.14x**

**13.91x**

MDC quarterly billing rates

