



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

### Planning and Development Committee

Friday, March 14, 2014

Testimony in support of,

### S.B. 332, An Act Amending the Charter of the Metropolitan District in Hartford County

I would like to thank Chairman Rojas, Chairwoman Osten, Vice Chairman Steve Cassano, Vice Chairman Daniel Fox, Ranking Member Leonard Fasano, Ranking Member William Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee for giving me the opportunity to speak this afternoon. I want to thank you for raising Senate Bill 332, An Act Amending the Charter of the Metropolitan District in Hartford County. I speak this afternoon in strong support of SB 332.

My constituents and I are outraged at the MDC for their astronomical rate hikes. Most problematic is the vast disparity between member towns and nonmember towns. Not only do I think this is unfair, it is atrocious. I am well aware that some of these surcharges are for maintenance costs and upgrades. However, the distribution needs to be more equitable. In a letter to the editor to my local paper, a constituent wrote "If we had used NO WATER during this billing period we would have been charged \$ 153.12 any way." Senate Bill 332 is a step in the right direction and it will amend Special Act 551 of 1929 which is obsolete.

This senate bill addresses some of our concerns by seeking to:

- Charge all customers at uniform rates including surcharges.
- Allow at least one representative from each non-member town on the MDC board of commissioners.
- Permit state regulators from Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to review and comment on all rate and fee changes as to whether they are "just, reasonable, and adequate" before such rates and fees are imposed.

Water is a public utility and as such, it should go through the same overview and regulations that other public utilities such as electric and gas undergo. On behalf of the 7000 customers of MDC in Glastonbury, and many more in communities throughout Connecticut, I request that you support Senate Bill 332. What I request is a system that is fair and equitable. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak before the committee today.

Prasad Srinivasan, State Representative, 31<sup>st</sup> District