

**Testimony of  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

**By  
Nancy Alderman, President**

**Bill 5543**

***AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY.***

**Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee:**

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am the President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., a Connecticut non-profit organization comprised of 11 members who are physicians and public health professionals.

**Environment and Human Health, Inc. strongly opposes Bill 5543**

Environment and Human Health, Inc. has, over the years, worked hard to protect Connecticut's drinking water. We have studied it, we have researched it, we have written reports on it, and we have worked with the Department of Health to protect it.

This Bill will weaken Connecticut's drinking water protections that currently exist to protect our drinking water supplies.

For instance, as of now, a water company must apply for a permit from the Department of Public Health when they try to change the use of their water company lands. This bill would redefine the word "change" so that our drinking water could be negatively impacted. This is because the "new" definition would give the water companies great discretion to make changes in use without having to apply to the Department of Public Health for a permit, thus eliminating an extremely important oversight that is in place to protect the public's health. Connecticut's drinking water must be protected.

**Please vote down this Bill.**

Thank you for your attention,

Nancy Alderman, President  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

March 2014