



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Committee on Children
January 27, 2015**

RE: HB-5653, AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN.

CWWA recommends that **HB-5653, AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN**, *be amended to specifically exempt water utilities* from the scope of the bill because water utilities are already subject to extensive state and federal laws and regulations which ensure the safety of our public water supplies through extensive water quality monitoring and reporting.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strictly regulates public water supplies to ensure compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires extensive water quality monitoring and reporting. Federal drinking water quality standards are developed based on a detailed process of risk assessment that considers the potential health impacts of various compounds in drinking water.

Under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, utilities are required to notify their customers regarding the presence of any chemicals or compounds found in drinking water and provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which indicates which compounds are found in the water and at what level. In addition, the state Department of Public Health, as the primary agency that enforces the SDWA on the state level, may also require more stringent monitoring and reporting.

Public water supplies may, however, contain trace amounts of chemicals at levels considered safe under federal and state law. Many of these substances are naturally occurring, while some are required for public health purposes, such as fluoride, or recommended for use in water treatment, such as chlorine, to ensure the quality of the water.

Given the federal and state laws governing monitoring, reporting and remediation, we believe that public water suppliers should be exempt from the scope of this bill, which would be duplicative and problematic for public water suppliers.