



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)  
Before the  
Public Safety Committee  
February 19, 2015**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment regarding **Proposed HB-6494 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHEN BLASTING CAUSES DAMAGES.**

In addition to requiring the Division of Construction Services within the Department of Administrative Services to establish complaint procedures for property owners to report damages to property due to the use of explosives and blasting agents, the bill also calls for the department to amend the existing regulations to address modern blasting techniques.

Water companies periodically and routinely employ blasting in the normal course of business to ensure public water supply mains are properly installed consistent with state Department of Public Health regulations and guidelines. We therefore caution that requirements governing blasting much be crafted in such a way as to ensure that water companies may continue to meet their public health and safety obligations.

As a proposed bill, the language does not specify how the department should amend the existing regulations to address “modern blasting techniques”. CWWA therefore requests that the water industry be included in any discussions regarding the bill language to ensure that it does not call for changes that would inadvertently undermine our ability to perform blasting when needed to properly install water mains.

In addition, previous discussions about revising the regulations referenced changes to the radius for pre-blast surveys, well testing requirements and pre-blast notification. These proposed revisions raised concerns for the water industry because they would have made it more difficult and costly to meet our obligation to provide a safe and adequate supply of water to our customers.

CWWA would be pleased to work with lawmakers and the department to identify requirements in these areas that will achieve public safety goals without imposing unnecessary burdens on water utilities and our customers.

*The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional water utilities serving customers throughout Connecticut. CWWA is committed to working with the state to develop policies that will ensure that Connecticut has a safe, ample supply of water to meet present and future needs.*