



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of SB 865 An Act Concerning Allowable Costs for the Installation of Oversized Water Mains and the Backup Well Siting Requirements for Certain Water Company Diversions.

**Environment Committee
February 13, 2015**

Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee:

I'm writing in support of **Senate Bill 865, An Act Concerning Allowable Costs for the Installation of Oversized Water Mains and the Backup Well Siting Requirements for Certain Water Company Diversions**. This bill seeks to rectify an unintended consequence of municipalities being penalized when seeking cost saving measures for the installation of water lines.

Under currently law, if a municipality is receiving state funding for potable water from DEEP and seeks to install a larger pipe to accommodate firefighting or economic development needs, the municipality could end up receiving less funding than if they merely installed a smaller line for potable water only. As a result, the state and municipalities are not getting the best bang for their buck.

A municipality should not be penalized for forward thinking planning and allowing for a potable water line to be sized for other purposes. So long as the town or water authority agrees to pay for the incremental cost increase, the project should receive the same amount of funding from the state.

Under the current version of this bill, the draft language seeks to allow for DEEP funds to pay for these economic or firefighting costs. I believe the language should be changed to merely not penalize a town for adding these services to a water line and, thus, allow for same level of funding for the potable water project. Thus, the state would preserve the underlying intent of the clean water funds, namely that the funds would go toward potable water only, and a municipality has the ability to pay for further development without penalty.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vin Candelora". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "V".

Vin Candelora
State Representative
86th Assembly District
Service North Branford, Durham, Guilford, and Wallingford