



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association
Before the Energy Committee
March 17, 2015**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), a trade association of municipal, regional and private water utilities, **supports with revisions HB-6994, AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE PIPES OF WATER COMPANIES.**

This bill is intended to simplify the process for authorizing installation of water service pipes that cross intervening properties, which will reduce agency costs as well as improve the ability of water companies to serve their customers.

Under current law, in order for a water utility to install a service pipe that crosses intervening properties, a utility or property owner must submit a written request to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). PURA is then required to initiate a docket to determine whether an exception should be granted, which can be very time-consuming and unnecessary as well as costly for the agency to administer. Each such request is considered as a separate docketed item at PURA involving a formal proceeding and action by the commissioners to approve. The decisions are based on whether the applicant satisfies the criteria in the current regulations.

The bill would codify those requirements in statute and provide the company with the ability to approve requests if the applicant satisfies all of those requirements, without requiring formal approval by PURA process. CWVA met with PURA regarding this language and they are in full support of the concept.

However, based on our discussions with PURA we recommend that the bill be revised to 1) reflect the full list of parameters, consistent with the current regulations and approval criteria; and 2) provide notification to PURA of any approved applications. The revised language is included on page 2 of our testimony and we are continuing to meet to ensure that the language captures the issues raised in our discussions.

Under the revised language, a water utility may , at the property owner's request, install a water service pipe that crosses intervening properties provided the property owner demonstrates to the water utility that 1) an alternative ownership of a suitable strip of land to establish frontage on a road is not feasible; (2) the proposed service line will ultimately serve no more than one premises; 3) proper easements are in place prior to the installation of the line; 4) the construction complies with the company's Rules and Regulations; and 5) there is adequate water pressure to serve the property.



There are many circumstances when installing a service line that crosses an intervening property line is more feasible and prudent than installing a main extension. As a result, the vast majority of requests for an exception are approved by PURA.

Simplifying the process makes a lot of sense, particularly as the state looks for ways to reduce administrative costs. CWWA therefore urges your support for HB-6994 with the revised language below.

Revised Language

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2015) (a) Upon application of a property owner to a water company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, to install a service pipe, as defined in section 16-262u of the general statutes, extending to such property owner's premise in place of a water main extension in the street, the water company may approve such property owner's application provided the property owner demonstrates to the water utility that: (1) an alternative ownership of a suitable strip of land to establish frontage on a road is not feasible; (2) the installation shall not extend or replace an existing non-comforting service pipe; (3) the proposed service line will serve no more than one premises; (4) proper easements are in place prior to the installation of the line; (5) the construction complies with the company's rules and regulations as approved by the authority; and (6) there is adequate water pressure to serve the property. A copy of the approved application shall be filed with the authority.

(b) If the property owner cannot demonstrate in their application that they meet the conditions established in subsection (a) of this section or disputes the water utility's decision regarding said application, a request may be filed with the authority to grant an exception.