



93 West Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
1-860-664-6055

**Testimony of Connecticut Water Company
Energy & Technology Committee
March 17, 2015**

HB 6994 AAC Service Pipes of Water Companies

Connecticut Water Company supports **HB 6994 AAC Service Pipes of Water Companies**. We thank the committee for raising HB 6994 and concur with the comments submitted in support of the bill by our professional association, Connecticut Water Works Association.

As a public water utility that serves over 90,000 customers or approximately 300,000 people in 56 towns in Connecticut, we strive to operate efficiently, be responsive, and meet the needs of the customers and communities we serve.

The changes proposed in this bill are intended to streamline the process for our customers, the company, and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) when site-specific conditions warrant the installation of a service pipe that crosses intervening properties, rather than installing or extending a main in the road to serve a single premise.

The change will reduce the regulatory burden on PURA who now has to initiate a docket to process each request submitted under Section 16-11-64 of the RCSA and requires formal approval by the Commissioners. This can be a very time-consuming process when the specific criteria for approving the requests are detailed in the regulations. Generally, requests that are made to PURA are only done when the specific conditions warrant it, and as a result, the vast majority of requests for such an exception are approved by PURA once the process is completed.

The proposed bill would give the water company the ability to approve such requests, without a formal PURA process, if the applicant satisfies the requirements in the regulations which would instead be incorporated into the statute. Only those situations where the company and the applicant do not agree that the conditions have been satisfied would be referred to PURA for their review.

PURA has indicated their support of the concept but agreed that the proposed bill should be revised slightly to more fully reflect the list of conditions in the current regulations. Accordingly, CWWA has provided substitute language for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB-6994. We ask that you support the bill with the proposed revisions provided by CWWA.