

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

March 23, 2015

HB-5602, An Act Concerning a Property Owner's Liability for the Expenses of Removing a Fallen Tree or Limb.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 48 million gallons of water per day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 communities in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education, and research.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, (RWA) strongly **OPPOSES** the provisions of **HB-5602, An Act Concerning a Property Owner's Liability for the Expenses of Removing a Fallen Tree or Limb.**

The language in the proposed bill seems to be vague and uncertain. Further the liability on the tree owners is open-ended and the bill fails to define the phrase "likely to fall" or to narrow the phrase by specifying a time period in which the tree may be likely to fall.

The RWA suggests that an exemption be considered for property that is classified as forest, farm, or open space land. In addition, the State Vegetation Management Task Force recommendations should guide any new legislation about hazardous trees.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition. If you have any questions, please contact, Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist at 203-401-2720, or lvitagliano@rwater.com