



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA)  
Before the  
Labor Committee  
January 29, 2015**

**RE: HB-5124, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSECUTIVE WORKDAYS AND HOLIDAY PAY.**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), which represents municipal, regional and private water utilities, opposes HB-5124, which may negatively impact water company operations. As proposed, HB-5124 would require overtime wages for employees that may be required to work more than five consecutive days or work on Sundays or holidays.

Public water suppliers are required to comply with extensive state and federal laws and regulations to ensure the safety of public water supplies. This involves conducting water quality monitoring and reporting, meeting rigorous treatment standards, maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, implementing source water protection programs, providing customer service and responding to disruptions in service that may be caused by storms or other emergencies.

In order to provide residents and businesses with a safe supply of quality water and respond promptly to disruptions in service cause by water main breaks or other issues, water utilities must be able to utilize flexible staffing schedules. However, HB-5124 penalizes employers that have operations that do not fit the traditional 9-5, 5 day a week model by mandating overtime wages in these circumstances.

In addition, wage and hour issues and work schedules may be subject to collective bargaining agreements for certain employees. HB-5124 would undermine these agreements, which have been negotiated in good faith.

Finally, public water suppliers strive to provide customers with quality water at a reasonable cost. However, by negatively impacting water company operations and increasing personnel costs, HB-5124 may result in unnecessary increases in customer rates.

CWVA urges lawmakers to oppose this bill.