

Statement of Christopher R. Stone  
Before  
Planning and Development Committee  
March 11, 2015  
Regarding S.B. 1069

**AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT IN  
HARTFORD COUNTY AND EXTENDING THE MATURITY DATE FOR MUNICIPAL  
SEWERAGE SYSTEM BONDS**

I serve as an Assistant District Counsel to the Metropolitan District, or MDC, Greater Hartford's regional water and sewer authority, in support of Raised Bill 1069. The Metropolitan District is a specially chartered municipal corporation comprised of eight member towns – Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor – and serving over 400,000 water and sanitary sewer customers.

With me today is Attorney Ernest Lorimer, lead bond counsel for the MDC, who will speak to those sections of the raised bill relating to bond capacity and the maturity date for sewer bonds. He has also submitted written testimony.

First, please note that the MDC withdraws its request set forth in Section 1 of the raised bill. We understand that the issue presented in this section is part of a larger discussion within the legislature, and the matter is better left for those discussions rather than being dealt with on an individual basis for the MDC. We only ask that if there is a change in the public notice requirements generally that the change apply to the MDC as well by further amendment to its Charter.

Section 2 of the raised bill increases the maximum appropriation for capital projects absent a district-wide referendum from \$5 million to \$20 million, with an annual escalator based upon inflation. This will allow the MDC more flexibility to appropriate funds for larger projects, recognizing that the costs of design and construction has increased significantly since the \$5 million cap was enacted in 1990, twenty-five years ago. This section also allows the MDC Board to reduce the amount of any such appropriation based upon the amount of expected federal or state grants for any particular project. These monies, while within the expenditure cap, would not be from MDC resources and therefore should not be included in the appropriation limits.

Section 3 of the raised bill merely brings the MDC in line with other public water companies by extending the time period for filing water use liens from one year to two. Public Act 08-43 amended CGS Section 7-239(b) to increase the time to lien; however, because the MDC is governed by a Special Act, this extended time period did not apply to it.

Thank you for your consideration.