



Testimony
Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA)
Before the Commerce Committee
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SB-301 - AN ACT MODIFYING THE THRESHOLDS FOR MANDATORY REPORTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SPILLS.

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), a trade association of private, municipal and regional water companies, **supports SB-301**, which modifies the state Energy & Environmental Protection's (DEEP) spill reporting standards.

As stewards of the state's water resources, water companies develop and implement source water protection measures to protect the safety and quality of public water supplies. Having reasonable spill reporting thresholds is important to our ability to respond to and mitigate potential spill events in watershed and aquifer areas. Currently, the spill reporting standards are undefined, requiring reporting of de minimis quantities that do not pose any reasonable threat. This imposes an unnecessary compliance burden on water companies.

Spill quantities should be risk-based rather than based on some uniform volume or weight regardless of the potential environmental or public health and safety impact posed by the chemical. The best way to develop balanced standards is through the promulgation of regulations, as called for in the bill.

CWVA urges support for the bill and stands ready to work with stakeholders to develop regulations to modify the spill reporting standards.