

February 29, 2016

Energy and Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900  
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,175 members that employ over 50,000 people in and around our service area. Our chamber represents businesses from all industry sectors and of all sizes, from Fortune 500 companies, to micro businesses.

The purpose of this letter today is to offer the chamber's strong support for SB 212, An Act Exempting Water Companies from Sales and Use Tax. SB 212 would reinstate the sales tax exemption for purchases of goods and services by private water companies for use in supplying water to consumers. Municipal and regional water utilities are exempt from taxes on these exact same goods and services. The fact that private water companies now have to pay the Sales and Use Tax simply means that consumers in the service territory of these companies, who rely on water as part of their basic day to day living, will incur higher costs.

The private water companies of our state already pay their taxes as other businesses from all other industry sectors do. These companies are major employers and strong corporate citizens, and they provide water on a daily basis for critical community functions such as public health, safety, fire protection, and economic development.

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce urges the General Assembly to pass SB 212, An Act Exempting Water Companies from Sales and Use Tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important topic.