

RAISED BILL 422 -2016 Session

Planning & Development Committee 3/11/16

I'm writing to you as a member of the Planning & Development committee who has demonstrated reasonable and thoughtful responses to proposed legislation that could yield unintended consequences on business development and on the success of future regional efforts. I'm asking you to reject Raised Bill 422, An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates...

I've been privileged to serve on the MDC Board following a brief term in the General Assembly. I have always been, and continue to be, generally opposed to, and cautiously optimistic of all regional efforts. However, during my 20 or so years on the MDC Board, I have been extremely impressed with the efforts of the MDC, toward which this proposal is loosely directed. As a legislative appointment to that board, I view my role as broadly representing all of the district's member towns interests and as such, constantly work to reduce expenses and vigorously question increases to customers in taxes and fees whenever it is appropriate. I have made it my personal choice to constantly question staff, management and leadership to ensure that happens.

Additionally, it has been my general observation that the MDC responsibly delivers clean water to its customers and removes the waste water according to strict regulations from various oversight agencies in a very economical and environmentally safe manner. The MDC oversees the responsible distribution of a clean and abundant water supply and, should any water supply emergency occur, all customers would share the burden of required reductions equally. MDC is a rare regional success story.

Finally, this proposal contains a thread of anti-business language as regards interstate commerce which is veiled in an effort to discredit an otherwise successful regional effort.

Allen Hoffman
West Hartford