

Subject: Support Bill#422

Support Bill SB422 An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water Substitute language below please.

Date of hearing MARCH 11, 2016

To the Planning and Development Committee:

The bill as raised in the committee requires revision. Support the raised bill but consider substitute language. Points to consider:

- Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought. If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water in CT needs to stop.
- Rescind water rate discounts for water bottlers. They extract large amounts of our municipal water and spring water, fill the environment with plastic pollution, and profit while citizens are conserving and paying more.
- Rescind the Special Sewer Service Charge discount for water bottlers (now known as the Clean Water Project Charge). CT ratepayers have paid for years to build infrastructure for clean water; no discounts for corporations.
- Re-establish a citizen MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) watch dog committee.
- Impose a moratorium on any new large capacity agreements until the State Water Plan is completed and addresses the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds.

I understand Niagara Water is lobbying you on this issue. Your constituents and taxpayers deserve consideration long before any company who is receiving tax abatements and secret approvals from the town committees.

Through your legislation, please make what has happened in the town of Bloomfield never happen again.

Benjamin Skaught