

Bob and Marcia Hall  
53 Sunset Farm Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Hearing: March 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Bill Name: SB422 (An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water)

Support for Substitute SB422

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Bye and Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

Water is a precious commodity whose value varies depending upon its availability. Currently, we are blessed in the MDC District to have an adequate supply of water. Six years ago Los Angeles County had sufficient water. Today, after 6 years of drought they do not have a sufficient water supply.

The MDC is a quasi-public utility and therefore it has a responsibility to notify its members whenever negotiations are underway for permitting a project as large and extensive as Niagara Bottling Company. This project seems ill conceived. We would propose a moratorium on any large capacity water agreement until the State Water Plan is completed.

It is my understanding that if a water shortage (drought) should develop, Niagara Bottling Company would have first priority for available water at a discounted price, and MDC customers would have restrictions on their use of MDC water. We propose that under a DPH drought advisory, there be no production of bottled water. We also would rescind the special sewer service charge discount for water bottlers.

Several years ago the University of Connecticut Storrs campus anticipated needing a greater water supply. Why did the MDC not go to their rescue when now they are courting a bottling company? Remember, water is a finite resource. Los Angeles now knows this. We need to protect the water supply of the Greater Hartford Region from commercial interests.

Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Hall and Marcia S. Hall