

Name: Carmela Garofalo, RSM

Date: March 9, 2016

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2016

Bill: SB 422 An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Support for Substitute SB422

To members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I wish to support Senator Bye's substitute bill SB422.

- **Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought.** If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water for export out of state 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.

In addition I must voice my opinion that water is a common good, a public and sacred trust for all to use. It is not a commodity to be sold for profit, especially not for profit that further pollutes our planet.

I believe that societies have a right to have a voice about the use of the water in the area where they live.

Another deal such as the one with Niagara Bottling Company cannot happen - nor should this deal be allowed since it was executed without transparency.

I believe that responsible planning and development cannot be short sighted. Awareness of what is happening to our environment, the effects of climate change and the health of people all over the world need to be considered. The future of our children and the health of our one and only planet are at stake.

Thank you.