

Subject: "Water Bill" SB 422

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2016

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

Dear Planning and Development Committee

I am writing you to for your support for the proposed SB422 Water Bill. Below are points that I feel you should take into consideration:

1. 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.
2. Rescind water rate discounts for water bottlers. They extract large amount of our municipal water and spring water, fill the environment with plastic pollution, and profit while citizens are conserving and paying more.
3. Rescind the Special Sewer 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. Why should a large corporation come in with discounts?
4. Re-establish a citizen MDC watch dog committee.
5. 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 would also like to add that Niagara Water received the tax abatement. This decision, by our town council, was done behind closed doors as well as Niagara hiding their name until the last moment. That was devious and underhanded. Is that the kind of company we want in our state? Can the State of Connecticut, as well as the Town of Bloomfield, afford this large company that will pay little to no taxes? The state is in a deficit, we should be looking for companies that want to help build our state and communities not take from them.

Niagara can have up to 200 large trucks, per day, in and out of Bloomfield. Our local roads are in repair now, with this added burden, will my taxes be used for their convenience? I say NO!!!

Water is a precious resource and we should not be giving it away. We are in climate change and there is no guarantee that we will always have unlimited water. Additionally we will be accumulating more plastic in our landfill which will make its way to the ocean. Is that the legacy you want to leave?

Now Niagara is lobbying the CT legislature. Don't be fooled by them throwing money at you and how good they are for Connecticut. If they are so good, why are they not building a plant in their home state of California? Because California is in a drought.

Please vote to enact the SB422 water bill. Do the right thing!

Thank you

Cathy Bailey

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