

Testimony submitted by:

Diane Mack  
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RE: Support for Substitute SB422  
An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply  
Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Hearing Date: March 11, 2016

As a resident of a town served by the MDC, I am urging the Legislature's support of SB 422.

We live in an area of the country in which water has historically been abundant. However, due to global warming and climate shifts, we do not know if this abundance will continue. We don't know what the "new normal" will be.

It is the responsibility of elected officials to be far-sighted in protecting the health and welfare of citizens and in safeguarding our natural resources. Water is our most essential resource. Supporting this Bill will protect residents in the case of future drought. It will ensure that the needs of Connecticut citizens are placed first, before the interest of private for-profit businesses.

Your support will also ensure a moratorium on any new large capacity contracts until a comprehensive State water plan is completed. It makes sense to delay approval of large water sales until this important work is done and policy has been established.

This Bill will rescind water rate discounts and special sewer discounts for water bottlers. I disagree, in principle, with special discounts on water and sewer rates to a water bottling company (especially an out-of-state entity), whose only business is bottling and profiting from a basic natural resource subsidized by Connecticut residents.

Your support on this important Bill is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Diane Mack