

March 10, 2016

Regarding: **Friday, March 11, 2016 11 AM- Legislative Hearing- An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water/Support for Substitute “Water Bill” SB 422**

From: **Citizen David Emond, 92 Prospect Street, New Hartford, CT 06057**

Dear Planning and Development Committee,

It is important for you all to support Senator Bye’s Substitute “Water Bill’ SB 422. Selling our natural resources to corporate interests for profit is a terrible plan. As local ‘customers’ of New Hartford’s WPCA/Torrington Water Company system we have already felt the deeply negative impact of mismanagement of our water supply resulting in one of the highest water rates in the country! As a family of four we spend \$1500 annually for water of questionable quality and health. It is outrageous to think the MDC waters could be bottled for corporate profit while we all work hard to conserve but still get stuck with such high rates. I support Senator Bye’s substitute bill along with the efforts of Bloomfield Citizens’ to thwart this immoral disaster. You should, too!

Please consider the following important language and points:

- **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) watchdog 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.

Sincerely,

David Emond, Citizen