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**To: Planning and Development Committee**

**Re: An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water) and "Support for Substitute SB 422"**

**Date of Hearing: Friday March 11, 2015**

As a citizen of Farmington, CT I have become aware of the controversy regarding the Niagara Bottling Company attempting to create a bottling plant in Bloomfield. In addition to water is a public resource and not a commercial asset to be privatized for corporate profit, the following are points that need to be addressed:

- The Niagara Bottling Company would 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.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Edwin deGroat