

Testimony in support of S.B. 422: AAC RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES, PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES AND SELLERS OF BOTTLED WATER.

In Connecticut, we are fortunate to have relatively bountiful water supplies compared to other parts of the United States. The MDC is a quasi-municipal entity who serves as the steward over these water supplies on behalf of the people of the greater Hartford area. The MDC does an excellent job of keeping our drinking water clean.

However, I believe that encouraging the use of up to 1.8 million gallons of water per day for a bottled water facility is short-sighted if it were done without the protections that SB 422 would put in place. The MDC should not charge a lower rate to a prolific water user, the MDC should not allow a private water bottling company to have preferential access to water during a drought, nor should a private water bottling company have a clean water project surcharge that is lower than that of residential customers.

I think that it is prudent state policy to preserve the water advantage that we are blessed to have in Connecticut. We don't know how bountiful our water supplies may be in the future due to climate change and other factors, so we should remain cautious with our region's precious water supplies.

I strongly support the proposed substitute language in LCO #2975, and I hope the P&D Committee will too.

Sincerely,

Eric Hammerling, Resident

West Hartford