

March 9, 2016

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

To: pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov

To: Senator Osten and Representative Miller and the other Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB 422. Our water is one of our most important and valuable resources. It is a basic human right. It is my position that it should NOT be privatized. I therefore do not support having a bottling plant in Bloomfield, CT. I was horrified to find out that this deal was made without public support. With climate change and drought conditions projected for the State of Connecticut, it is ridiculous to allow a private water bottling company to have access to the very resource that allows for the survival of our growing community.

It is my position that we need to:

- **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.
- **Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought.** If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water in CT needs to stop.
- **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.
- MDC and municipalities need to **provide greater transparency by including public opinion in their decisions** whenever a high volume industrial use of our potable water supply is proposed.

I urge you to support substitute SB422.

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