

3/10/2016

Jeanne Duggan
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Attn: The Planning & Development Committee

Re: Support for Substitute SB 422 hearing scheduled for 3/11/16.
Bill titled "An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking
Water Supply Emergencies & the Sellers of Bottled Water "

The purpose of this letter is to support Senator Beth Bye's substituted bill.

I have been a resident of CT in the West Hartford and Bloomfield area, for the majority of my life. I was quite alarmed to learn about the plan of Niagara Water Company, to take water from the MDC water resources and bottle it for sale.

Residents of this area should come first and a precious resource like water should not be taken from the State and given over to a private contractor for self enrichment. If a drought advisory were ever declared, the production of bottled water for export out of the state needs to stop.

The water rate discounts for water bottlers should be rescinded!

Water bottlers should not be allowed to increase their profits, while taking our water, by receiving water rate discounts while the residents of the state, who have supported the region for years, through taxes and payment of water bills, are charged a higher rate. I am further alarmed by the use of plastic, a known carcinogen, which even if produced with care not to produce cancer causing containers, still adds to environmental pollution, causing more damage to all our resources, human beings and animals.

The Special Sewer Service Charge discount for water bottlers (now known as the Clean Water Project Charge) should be rescinded!

CT water customers should benefit from the payments they have made for years to build infrastructure for clean water, not corporations who are damaging the security and safety of residents, in the name of greed.

A citizen MDC Watch Dog Committee should be re-established to ensure the protection of our water resources and ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the residents.

Decisions affecting the environment and the long term health and safety of the state's residents should be carefully studied and shared with the Public before irrevocable decisions are made.

A moratorium on any new large capacity agreements should be instituted until the State Water Plan is completed, and all issues of water bottling companies taking water out of our reservoirs and watersheds have been carefully considered.

Again, this is a serious situation with long lasting effects on the environment and the residents of our towns and requires full transparency and consideration of all points of view and concerns, before final agreements are made & plans are implemented.

Jeanne S. Duggan