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Date of Hearing: Friday, March 11, 2016

Regarding: Bill: AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES, PUBLIC DRINKING WATER RATES, PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES AND THE SELLERS. OF BOTTLED WATER SUPPORT FOR SUBSTITUTE SB 422

To the Members of the Planning and Development Committee

It is our opinion that the State of Connecticut should place the welfare of their residents above the ability of private companies to profit inappropriately from our public water supply.

Specifically:

\* If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water in Connecticut should stop.

\* The water rate discount should be rescinded for water bottlers. It makes no sense for citizens to conserve and pay more while corporations line their pockets with profits as they take large amounts of water from our municipal and spring water and pollute the environment with plastic and plastic by-products.

\* The Clean Water Project Charge should not be discounted for water bottlers and corporations. The existing infrastructure has been funded for years by Connecticut ratepayers. Does it make sense for citizens to pay more than for profit companies?

\*Until the State Water Plan is completed and the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds is addressed, there should be a moratorium on any new large capacity water agreements. Everyone is aware of the water difficulties being experienced through out the United States. Unless we protect what is one of our most valuable resources, large companies will rob us of that resource.

\*As 18 year residents of Connecticut, it has become increasingly clear that there needs to be more oversight of the Metropolitan District Commission. An MDC watch dog committee should be re-established.