

March 9, 2016

To:
Planning & Development Committee

From:
Joshua and Meredith Davidson
74 Basswood Rd.
Farmington, CT 06032

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

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in strong support of Substitutue SB 422 as proposed by Senator Bye.

The MDC is a state chartered institution. The purpose of the MDC as envisioned was to create an organization that could more efficiently manage the water resources of the Greater Hartford area than any individual city or town could do.

As the MDC website states: "The Metropolitan District - a public non-profit municipal corporation was created by the General Assembly in 1929 to provide quality potable water and sewer systems for people and businesses in the Hartford area."

By supplying water to any large scale single-use water bottling plant, like the proposed Niagara plant in Bloomfield, whose primary purpose is the transport and export of our precious fresh water resources out of the service area, the MDC is going outside of the purpose of its charter.

Additionally, the massive discounts offered to drive revenue from large scale users, like Niagara, are contrary to the non-profit nature of the MDC. Additionally, it subsidizes one-time use bottles which have a tremendously negative economic and environmental impact at the expense of taxpayers who funded the MDC infrastructure and upgrades. Don't let the MDC give away our water and the infrastructure funded by CT taxpayers.

We support the following changes to SB 422:

- Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought. If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water for export out of state needs to stop.
- 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.
- 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 consideration and we hope that you will side with the taxpayers and voters of CT.

Sincerely,
Joshua and Meredith Davidson
74 Basswood Rd.
Farmington, CT 05032