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Date of the hearing: 3/11/16

Bill Name: An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Testimony on my support for Substitute SB 422

Dear Members of the Planning & Development Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony. I am writing today in regards to my support for the substitute bill, SB 422, presented by Senator Beth Bye.

Water is an important resource and one that we must take seriously. I am in support of protecting residents, and not water bottlers, during a drought. I don't even believe in bottled water, the way that the business currently stands. If we wanted to create jobs, we would create cooperatives run by the community, where there is job development, real salaries, and community-ownership / responsibility for our important resources.

Please rescind the water rate discounts for water bottlers.

Also, rescind the Special Sewer Service Charge discount for water bottlers.

In addition, I am all for re-establishing a citizen MDC watch dog committee.

I am also in complete support of imposing a moratorium on any new large capacity agreements until the State of CT Water Plan is completed and addresses the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds.

We need more transparency in these processes and I am grateful for the citizen activist in Bloomfield and West Hartford. Water must stay in public hands. This includes planning ahead and having public funds that will help public utilities protect this resource. Public utilities are more responsive, reliable, and cost-effective. Water is not a business – it is a resource that we must take care of with respect.

Thank you very much!

Juliet

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