

March 10, 2016

To: Planning and Development Committee

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

I am a resident of Windsor and I am very concerned about the use, or rather misuse, of our water supply. The Bloomfield Town Council and the MDC, with no public disclosure, worked to attract the Niagara bottling company to Bloomfield by offering tax abatements and lower water rates than those available to residents. I do not see the wisdom of selling water at a discounted rate to a corporation that will add no value but simply package our water in polluting plastic bottles and sell it at a profit out of state. This is far different from a company using water in its manufacturing process or even brewing beer, for example. Unlike Niagara, these companies add value and jobs that provide living wages.

I am thankful to live in a beautiful state, with clean water, and I want to keep it that way. While water seems plentiful today, it may not be so in the coming years. We should use our water wisely and we should not contribute to plastic bottle proliferation. I support all points of Senator Bye's substitute bill.

- 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.

Sincerely,



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