

Paula Jones
5 Bear Ridge Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Re: March 11, 2016 Public Hearing Testimony for "Substitute" SB 422:
**An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water
Supply Emergencies, and Sellers of Bottled Water**

To: Senator Cathy Osten, Representative Philip Miller, and Planning and
Development Committee Members

I am a Bloomfield citizen and a retired Actuary. Having spent the first 21 years of my life in Maine and the last 23 in Bloomfield, I seldom worried about the public water supply in Connecticut and throughout New England. In 2012, I became very concerned when the MDC proposed building a pipeline to UCONN. The legislature responded to that proposed inter-basin water transfer by passing legislation requiring the completion of a State Water Plan. Now, recent actions by the Town of Bloomfield and the MDC to quietly accommodate Niagara Bottling have revealed the necessity for additional legislative action.

Today I'm submitting testimony in support of "Substitute" bill SB 422. The Substitute bill is a good start towards addressing the current loopholes effectively allowing inter-basin water transfers. In addition to the three existing sections in the Bill, I request that two provisions be added:

- **Place a moratorium on THE CREATION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF any new water capacity agreements over 250,000 gallons/day until the State Water Plan is completed and enacted.** This would plug the loophole which enabled the MDC to resurrect the UCONN pipeline project, via Niagara Bottling's 10+ Million plastic bottles of water per day. Attached as part of my testimony is an e-mail obtained from the MDC under a FOIA request. It's dated January 25, 2016, from Scott Jellison to Rebecca Nolan of MetroHartford Alliance, in response to Rebecca's congratulations on Bloomfield's signing the tax abatement agreement with Niagara. Mr. Jellison replies: "Rebecca we need to talk with you and OZ about the state wide water plan, this is just the beginning. Let's schedule meeting."
- **Establish a Citizen & Natural Resources Advocacy Committee at the MDC.** That Committee should be involved in all water-use decisions that meet certain criteria, such as selling to water bottlers, and should have veto authority over MDC actions. The MDC has demonstrated by its negotiations with Niagara that a Watch-Dog Committee with teeth is needed.

In closing, I'd like to talk briefly about my birthplace, Rumford, Maine. My uncle, Hector LeCours, was the superintendent of the Rumford Water District for 38 years, retiring in 1986. He was exceedingly proud of our high-quality public water system, gravity fed from the Mt. Zircon Reservoir, and of the unusual "Moon Tide" Mt. Zircon Spring located nearby. My recent experience in Bloomfield led me to research recent water history in my home town. What I found was quite disturbing. On May 13, 1987, the Chicago Tribune reported that PepsiCo Inc. would begin selling a new bottled water under the Ice Mountain Maine Spring Water label in major New England markets, including Hartford, CT. Pepsi had acquired the Moon Tide Spring source to supply the Ice Mountain water. And today the old Moon Tide Spring house is behind a chain link fence, with "No Trespassing" signs under the Poland Spring Water logo.

In closing, this is a state and regional issue. The legislature needs to act now to insure adequate safeguards for our public water supply.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: Jellison, Scott
To: Oz Griebel
billdibella@yahoo.com
bart.halloran@gmail.com
Date: 1/26/2016 6:02:04 AM
Subject: RE: Niagara project

Great we will schedule

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Oz Griebel <oz@metrohartford.com>
Date: 01/26/2016 5:37 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Jellison, Scott" <SJellison@themdc.com>
Cc: "kmartine@themdc.com" <kmartine@themdc.com>, Rebecca Nolan <rnolan@metrohartford.com>, Karen Routhier <krouthie@metrohartford.com>, John Shemo <jshemo@metrohartford.com>
Subject: RE: Niagara project

Scott - I'm currently flexible before 10:30 a.m. on the 1st, before 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd, between 10:30 a.m. and noon on the 4th, and after 3:00 p.m. on the 5th. Please let me know if any of those slots work for you. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Nolan
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:21 PM
To: Jellison, Scott; Martin, Kerry
Cc: Oz Griebel; Karen Routhier
Subject: RE: Niagara project

Scott, I would be glad to meet. My schedule is more flexible than Oz's; I will work around anything the works best for you.

Becky

-----Original Message-----

From: Jellison, Scott [mailto:S.Jellison@themdc.com]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:07 PM
To: Rebecca Nolan; Martin, Kerry
Subject: RE: Niagara project

Rebecca we need to talk with you and OZ about the state wide water plan, this is just the beginning. Let's schedule meeting.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTEsmartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Rebecca Nolan <rnolan@metrohartford.com>
Date: 01/25/2016 11:42 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Ross, Arthur" <ARoss@ngkf.com>, "Jellison, Scott" <SJellison@themdc.com>
Subject: RE: Niagara project

Congratulations to you too... this was a long haul but I'm glad to hear it has been accepted.

I will defer to the town for any press release and the Alliance will then post that to a link through the Daily Brief, if that is what they [Bloomfield] want us to do.

Thanks again for all your help and I look forward to continuing to support Niagara and help them feel this is a welcoming community!

Becky

From: Ross, Arthur [mailto:ARoss@ngkf.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:12 AM
To: Jellison, Scott
Cc: Rebecca Nolan
Subject: FW: Niagara project

3/6/2016

FYI Scott – should have copied you on this as well.

I assume the town will want to take the lead on making any announcements, and when they make them. And I know Niagara wishes to proceed as quietly as possible.

I trust you will both keep this in mind.

Scott/Becky, big time thanks to both of you and your respective teams, for your continued assistance and unwavering support of the project!

Art

From: Ross, Arthur
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:01 AM
To: 'Rebecca Nolan'
Subject: Niagara project

Hi Becky –

Just want you to know the Town of Bloomfield signed the Niagara incentive agreement, and delivered it to NB prior to COB last night.

Congratulations!

I assume there will still be additional public comments made Monday night at the T.C. meeting, but they should be academic at this stage.

Thanks again for all your efforts!

Art Ross, SIOR
Senior Managing Director
Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
Hart Industrial Group
<http://www.ngkf.com/redline.gti>

10 Tower Lane
Avon, CT 06001-4211
C 860.803.9938
aross@ngkf.com <<mailto:ARoss@ngkf.com>>

[Newmark Grubb Knight Frank] <<http://www.ngkf.com>>

[Facebook] <<http://www.facebook.com/Newmarkkf>> [Twitter] <<https://twitter.com/ngkf>> [LinkedIn] <<http://www.linkedin.com/company/newmark-grubb-knight-frank>>

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