

Public Comment by Stephanie C. Fox on S.B. No. 422:

Please ensure that this bill becomes law.

Please do anything and everything that you can to stop the Niagara Bottling corporation from sinking its pumps into our reservoirs. Denying it a discount on its planned activities of both pumping out our water for sale elsewhere and spewing sewage into our ecosystem will protect our water from running short in a drought.

The suggestion that there will be no drought in the future has been made. This is absurd. Anyone who suggests such a thing is laboring under either wishful or delusional thinking – or both.

We must put our long-term natural security first at all times. Once it's gone, it can't be restored.

Even to pay for new water-delivery infrastructure, putting our water supply at risk is insanity.

The Connecticut General Assembly has had authority over the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) since 1929, but it is vague and nebulous. It is past time for some definition.

Right now, the MDC can claim to lack the authority to much of anything to stop a corporation from sucking us dry. The MDC currently has no teeth with which to stop this. You must provide it with a sharp set of dental implants, and do it quickly.

No discounts should be permitted for pumping out a natural resource and then selling it.

This will lead to a drought, complete with sinkholes, potholes, insufficient water for private citizens with which to bathe, cook, and remain hydrated, and the same for wildlife, which will then come into closer contact with humans in their desperation for food and water. The environment around us will starve as surely as we humans end up policing each other over showers. That's no way to live.

If this bill isn't enacted into law within the next few months, the MDC will have effectively allowed Niagara Bottling to crash and trash our ecosystem.

By "crash" I mean sucking 1.8 million gallons of water out of it per day, thus inducing a drought (it is horrifyingly hilarious that officials have said that there won't be a drought – they are not psychic, so they must be writing a persuasion piece based on wishful and/or delusional thinking).

By "trash" I mean spewing sewage and PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) chemicals, by-products of plastic production, into the ecosystem. This occurs at the molecular level, so no sewage treatment plant will stop that.

We live in a developed nation, and New England is an area of it that is still in a decent state of ecological health. This is where people go to enjoy natural security. There is no "elsewhere" – no backup location to run to. This is the end of the line, so we must take care of it. Migrants flee places in states of ecological collapse – to ecosystems like ours.

If we allow Niagara Bottling, or any other such corporation into our currently verdant, pleasant ecosystem, that won't be true anymore.

Putting a price tag on that for some temporary money is insanity. Once permanent damage has been inflicted by a mercenary outsider, we will have nothing left – only natural insecurity. All future value will be gone.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Stephanie C. Fox, J.D.