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Testimony submitted to the Planning & Development Committee
for the public hearing of March 11, 2016

In support of Proposed **Substitute Bill No. 422**; LCO No. 2975:
AAC Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies
and Sellers of Bottled Water

Members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I am writing to support passage of **Substitute Bill 422 (LCO 2975)**, “AAC Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water”.

I believe that if the state should face a drought or other emergency that would restrict, ration or curtail our public water supply, that restrictions on that water supply should **favor residential customers**, not commercial/industrial customers as current law now stands. (SB 422, Sec. 1)

Furthermore, I believe that a large-scale water bottling facility that—for profit—is specifically packaging and distributing a product that is essentially a **public water resource** should **not be sold that water from a water authority at a rate that is discounted below what residential customers are charged**. (SB 422, Sec. 2)

Finally, as has become the case with a sweetheart deal offered to a private bottling water company by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), a sewer rate charge for water bottling production facilities should be the **same rate as residential customers pay**. Section 3 of SB 422 would address this current inequity.

Thank you for your consideration.