

Court of Common Council

CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103



OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN WILDALIZ BERMUDEZ

Dear Planning and Development Committee Members,

As an elected official representing Hartford Court of Common Council, I am writing to you in support for S.B. 422.

Hartford City Council did not receive any information from MDC or their proxies alerting us to the Niagra bottling. As an MDC member town we should have received notification from MDC about the Niagra bottling deal. However, it was not until February 3rd, 2016, that City Council became aware of the Niagra bottling news at our Environment Committee meeting- when a group of concerned Bloomfield residents spoke about the issue.

I am particularly troubled by the lack of information and transparency in this process. I strongly believe that all member towns of MDC should have been notified. Especially as the question arises on whether the same might occur in other MDC towns, to allow a multi-million dollar company like Niagra, to come in and extract our public water at a rate discounted less than that of what consumers pay. With a re-establishment of a Citizen MDC watchdog committee this would ensure that MDC works openly with its citizen members to make better decisions involving our water resources.

I believe implementing the Niagra bottling company scenario in Bloomfield opens up a pandora's box for other MDC member towns through out the CT. Niagra, is one of the world's largest water bottlers the extraction they propose is large amounts of public water to then sell it across the country. Clearly, Niagra has found a loop-hole in order to proceed with this project. With climate change being a reality we are facing in our state there is no telling what kinds of droughts we might experience in the very near future and so prioritizing state residents in a drought and prohibiting the export of water out of state in any drought emergency is something that should be considered.

Overall, I hope that you consider a complete State Water Plan before allowing any further large water sales to be conducted.

Respectfully,

Wildaliz Bermudez
Minority Leader
Hartford City Council