

To: Planning and Development Committee

From: Zellene Sandler

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Support for Substitute SB422

An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Hearing Date March 11,2016

I am writing in support of Senator Beth Bye's substitute bill 422. I am deeply concerned that in the event of a drought, state residents will not be given priority over large bottling operations. This has happened in California where residents were forced to greatly conserve while bottling plants continued at full capacity.

Large bottlers should not be given discounts for extracting public water supplies. They should not be given discounts on sewers. CT residents have paid for years to build this infrastructure and corporations should not benefit.

We should not encourage water bottlers who use both public water and CT spring water to create environmental damage to our planet. Less than 30% of these billions of plastic bottles are recycled. Many end up in the ocean, where 90% of seabirds now contain plastic fragments. Seabirds are in serious decline across the world due to ingestion of plastics. Marine mammals also are suffering.

I am the past president of the Hartford Audubon Society. Our members share my concerns.

Zellene Sandler