



**Testimony**  
**Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director**  
**Connecticut Water Works Association**  
**Before the Public Health Committee**  
**February 24, 2016**

**RE: HB-5350 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), a trade association of municipal, regional and private water utilities, **supports HB-5350, with minor revisions.**

The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) recently updated its 1962 Drinking Water Standards related to community water fluoridation after considerable research and public comment. For community water systems required to fluoridate water, the PHS recommends a standard that recognizes the importance of fluoridation to preventing tooth caries while limiting the risk of dental fluorosis. The new recommendation is for a level of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water.

HB-5350 simply updates Connecticut statute to ensure consistency with the revised federal standard. CWWA supports the proposal but recommends that the bill be revised to base compliance with the standard on a monthly average and a range for compliance since a minor fluctuation may otherwise render the utility in violation of the statute.

CWWA fully supports efforts to move the bill forward this session and will be meeting with the state Department of Public Health to discuss possible revisions to the bill to better facilitate compliance.