



The Metropolitan District
water supply • environmental services • geographic information

STATEMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5540

The Metropolitan District (“MDC”) is a specially-chartered municipal non-profit corporation established by the State of Connecticut General Assembly by Special Act in 1929 (SP.ACT.511) and provides water and sanitary sewer services to its eight member towns—Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor—as well as portions of other towns within the region. **The MDC supports House Bill 5540.**

In 2014, Public Act 14-163 substantially amended Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-352, the statute that calls for the development of a state water plan. This public act set forth criteria for the preparation of the plan as well as the procedure for its approval. House Bill 5540 provides greater detail on the road map to consideration and approval of the plan, and corrects and enhances the role of the General Assembly and the legislative committees of cognizance in this process. Of particular note, the prior public Act provided that the plan would be approved by default in the event the General Assembly failed to take any action on the plan prior to July 1, 2018. The MDC submits that a document of this importance should be vetted, reviewed and considered by the committees of cognizance and require action by the General Assembly.

The importance of clean, potable water to our residents and businesses cannot be understated. The MDC has provide an uninterrupted source of public water to its residential, commercial and industrial customers for nearly a century. The state water plan creation, submission and approval process, as detailed in Public Act 14-263 and modified by House Bill 5540, affords all stakeholder, through their elected representatives, a voice in the plan. What better way to balance the interests of our water customers, advocates for the environment, proponents of sound economic development, and taxpayers generally than to ensure that each of their voices are heard and represented through an open, engaged process. We understand the importance of our water supply to residents and businesses alike. For its customers, ratepayers, member towns and its business community, the MDC strives to balance these interests on a daily basis. In its active consideration of the state water supply plan we trust the General Assembly will as well for the entire state.

We urge you to support of **House Bill 5540**, and are available for any comments or questions. You may contact Christopher R. Stone at Chadwick & Stone Governmental Relations, LLC, 111 Founders Plaza, Suite 1702, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108, or by phone at (860) 610-4500 (o) or (860) 214-0503 (c). Thank you for your consideration.