

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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Testimony to the Public Health Committee

March 7, 2016

RB 5540 – An Act Concerning the State Water Plan

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 45 million gallons of water per day to almost 430,000 consumers in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education, and research.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Public Health in **Support of Raised Bill 5540 – An Act Concerning the State Water Plan.**

The proposed changes to RB 5540 would provide an approval process for the State Water Plan. Currently, if the legislature fails to approve or reject the plan within 60 days, the plan would be approved. This automatic approval process should be replaced with an affirmative action by the General Assembly, rather than the General Assembly failing to act.

A state water plan is essential to meet the needs of the state to protect public health and the environment, to ensure safety and promote economic development, and the RWA will continue to work with stakeholders on the development of this very important plan.

Thank you for considering the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's comments. If you have additional questions please contact, Lori Vitagliano, RWA Government Relations Specialist at 203-401-2720 or lvitagliano@rwater.com