



**Testimony  
Elizabeth Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Water Works Association  
Before the  
GAE Committee  
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), a trade association of municipal, private and regional water companies, **supports HB-5498, An Act Concerning the Review of Existing Agency Regulations.**

HB-5498 creates a more workable mechanism to ensure that agency regulations are reviewed on a regular basis. This is an important mechanism for addressing concerns related to outdated, unnecessarily burdensome, inefficient or ineffective regulations.

CWVA believes these efforts are vital to improving the Connecticut's regulatory environment and supporting business growth. Under the bill, stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on an agency's regulations and whether the regulations should be revised or updated to address concerns. This will ensure that residents and businesses have a voice in how the state can move forward with efforts to reduce regulatory burdens.

Periodically reviewing and obtaining input on agency regulations is important because there are many cases where concerns arise due to the interpretation or application of the regulations by agency staff and not the underlying legislation or the regulations as originally promulgated. Unfortunately, pursuing a declaratory ruling to seek greater clarity or determine whether the regulations are consistent with the legislative intent may be cost-prohibitive and time-consuming.

In addition, business operations change for a variety of reasons, particularly given the rapid use of new technologies. Unfortunately, regulations sometimes don't keep up with these changes and businesses are required to comply with outdated requirements.

By providing an opportunity to weigh in on regulations that are outdated or burdensome, HB-5498 will go a long way toward improving the state's business climate.

CWVA urges lawmakers to support HB-5498.