



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 24, 2016
Joint Committee on Public Health

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee and Deputy Commissioner Michael Sullivan

House Bill No. 5263 Raised – AAC the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations on Disclosure of Water Plan Information

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5263 – AAC the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations on Disclosure of Water Plan Information**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports the Department of Public Health’s proposal. The bill will make important additional water supply information available to the public without jeopardizing the security of the state’s public water supply infrastructure. Information on margin of safety, available water and safe yield are key pieces that the public should have access to in order to understand local water supply and water resource issues. As a member of the State’s Water Planning Council, DEEP is working with OPM, PURA and DPH to develop a State Water Plan by July, 2017. More disclosure of water supply information is critical for comprehension and public acceptance of the state water plan.

DEEP believes allowing access to additional information such as system water loss/leakage, current and projected water demands, service areas (without showing infrastructure), the stream system affected by water withdrawals, and water conservation can be done without exposing the water systems to security risks. The bill is a significant step forward in meeting the public’s right to know about their water supplies and potential impacts to water resources.

In summary, DEEP supports **House Bill No. 5263 – AAC the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations on Disclosure of Water Plan Information** and plans to work with the Department of Public Health and the Public Health Committee along with the Water Planning Council to ensure that this is crafted in such a way to balance public right to access to information with true security risk protections, as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP’s Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov.