

RHB 7221

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO WATER PLANNING INFORMATION

To Senator Gerrantana, Senator Bond, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on RHB 7221.

**I support this bill.** As someone who has become very concerned about CT's waters, I believe this bill is essential for future planning and ensuring the ongoing health and protection of this precious resource.

Through attendance at meetings of the **Water Planning Council** meetings, its subcommittees, and workshops, I have learned just how important this planning process is. There is no life without water. As the State Water Plan is being developed, one crucial issue comes up repeatedly; **lack of data**. Access to water information is crucial for us to plan and prepare for a future where there will be enough water for human consumption as well as water to support CT's aquatic and wildlife.

Through attendance at **MDC** meetings I have been concerned that the district board does **little planning for climate change, and gives little thought to environmental consequences of their decisions**. What they do consistently care about is economic development. Secrecy breeds mistrust. The public has the right to know about and evaluate for themselves whether these decisions are wise management of the public waters.

I definitely want information that would endanger our drinking water supply to stay out of the hands of those who might want to disrupt that supply. That information is not needed for understanding of our water resources.

**All waters in CT are the waters of the state.** They are not owned by a water utility. The citizens of CT have a right to know how their waters are being used or abused.

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