



Connecticut Fund  
for the Environment  

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Save the Sound®

**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound**

**Before the Public Health Committee**

*In Support of*

**HB 7221 – AAC Access to Water Planning Information**

**Submitted by: Chris Cryder (Special Projects Coordinator) and Karen Burnaska (Water Projects Coordinator)**

**March 13, 2017**

*Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) is a non-profit organization with over 4,700 member households statewide. The mission of CFE, and its bi-state program Save the Sound, is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring citizens together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.*

Dear Sens. Gerratana and Somers, Rep. Steinberg and Members of the Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound (CFE/Save the Sound) writes to register its support of HB 7221.

CFE/Save the Sound urges the Public Health Committee to pass HB 7221 so that the public can have access to the data needed for water planning. The public has a right to know how much water is controlled by water companies, the location and quality of particular water sources, and how much water can be safely moved from one source to another.

This bill will not compromise security measures but will allow for better public input into statewide water planning by providing the public with the necessary information needed to make decisions.

This bill will remove reference to water companies from the section of FOIA that allows exemptions for security reasons and move water company exemptions to a separate section.

CFE/Save the Sound urges support of this bill.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Cryder & Karen Burnaska