

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB 7221, which restores the public's 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 place (such as a community in need of clean water).

Since 2003, water utilities have held legal rights and privilege to withhold vital information from the public. We need statewide data on how much water is where, not utilities' security technology and procedures. Last year, negotiations to balance planning and security broke down with utility pressure, prompting the Metropolitan District Commission to turn to Homeland security and obtain blanket permission to keep everything in its water supply plan secret.

Bill 7221 removes references to water companies from the section of the Freedom of Information Act that allows exemptions for security reasons and moves water company exemptions into a separate section, providing clarity and opportunity for water company security.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kleindienst

Middletown, CT