

TOWN OF DURHAM

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

LAURA L. FRANCIS



Testimony

Laura Francis

First Selectman, Town of Durham

Public Hearing - Environment Committee

February 23, 2018

I respectfully urge your support of **SB 105 An Act Ensuring Continuing Water Service for Certain Municipalities.**

Almost ten years ago, the Town of Durham requested a waiver of the requirement to acquire a water diversion permit for a public water supply served by a well on town controlled property. The reasoning behind the request was that the pull from the well only exceeded the maximum daily amount during the three days of the Durham Fair. During those days, the yield from the well was generally between 50-80k gallons per day. All other days of the year, the maximum yield did not exceed 10k gallons per day. Those figures are still accurate for present day.

Since the waiver was granted, the Town of Durham, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and CT Department of Public Health and the City of Middletown, has secured a public water supply to service a Superfund Site in the town with capacity to service other areas of present or future need including the area that is supplied from the aforementioned well. The extension of Middletown water into Durham has been approved and permitted. The EPA anticipates the project will be out to bid in March. An extension for one year is anticipated to be an adequate accommodation for the construction period. After the connection is complete, the well will be taken off line and no longer utilized for the Durham Water Company customers.

An extension of the waiver will save the town the effort and cost associated with obtaining a Water Diversion Permit, resources that can be utilized more efficiently building out a public water supply not under the influence of groundwater contamination.

Thank you for your consideration.