



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Environment Committee**

**February 23, 2018**

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill 105 - An Act Ensuring Continuing Water Service for Certain Municipalities**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 105, which would extend the date by which the town of Durham may continue to withdraw up to one hundred thousand gallons of water per day for three consecutive days per year without the water diversion permit. DPH would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

DPH is pleased to support this bill, as it will provide the Town of Durham additional time to provide a pure and adequate supply of water to its citizens through an interconnection with the City of Middletown, which is scheduled to be constructed this summer. In Durham, both public and private wells have been contaminated with Trichloroethylene and other chemicals. Many people have been impacted for over three decades. DPH has worked closely with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), officials from the Town of Durham and the City of Middletown to provide a permanent solution. This interconnection project, when complete, will provide safe and adequate drinking water to consumers in the area of Durham where pollutants are found in the water. The Department commends the Town of Durham and the City of Middletown for working together to ensure the Town of Durham has a pure and adequate supply of water.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We encourage Committee members to reach out to DPH with any questions.

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