

**Environment Committee:**

**We are sending you this message to express our strong opposition to SB 427, which would limit our environmental protection act and privatize water in all CT wells.**

**As you know, Senate Bill 427 attempts to privatize all wells in the state, deliberately removing them from the umbrella of the public trust doctrine laid out in CT Statute Section 22a-15: "there is a public trust in the air, water and other natural resources of the state".**

**Large private water utilities with well fields supplying CT drinking water could declare that they "own the groundwater". A major bottling company, such as the one operating in Bloomfield and selling water from the MDC reservoirs, could purchase lands, drill multiple wells, and escape any regulation while exporting the water out of state for profit. In the case of drought, "well owners" could refuse to comply with any water use restrictions. Withdrawal from wells could impact the surface rivers and reservoirs with which they are hydro-logically connected yet be deemed untouchable as a "private" resource.**

**Our first ever state water plan is awaiting passage at the legislature. This bill attempts to circumvent the water plan's balanced and scientific approach to state water decisions and override the foundational principle that our state waters are a resource to be protected and managed for all.**

***WATER IS A PUBLIC RESOURCE, BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE OF CT AND HELD IN TRUST BY THE STATE TO BE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GENERATIONS TO COME.***

**Please vote NO on Senate Bill 427.**

**Thank you,**

**Ellen & Steve Cooney  
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**CC:**

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