

To the Environment Committee:

I find it extremely alarming that this bill has been raised here in our beautiful state where so many families have wells to provide their water. Water is a public resource - it belongs to everyone, held in the public trust, managed by the state for the benefit of generations to come. Even private wells fall under this foundational value and must be protected as a resource for all. No exception should be made for private drinking wells.

No one- no individual or corporation- should be able to dig a well and extract all the water that knows no boundaries and extends under land belonging to others. We must protect our aquifers for all people and for our future.

Although one could argue that a private drinking well technically may not be held in the public trust, what is a well without the underlying source of water?

The water in the aquifer that any well draws from certainly does belong to all those under whose land the aquifer flows, and must be subject to regulation by our state water plan.

Please enter my comments into the record of your public hearing today.

Nancy Gould

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