

***Environment Committee:***

***I strongly oppose RAISED SB 427: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC TRUST COMPONENTS OF THE STATE WATER PLAN".***

**We have seen what private bottling companies such as Niagara have done.** What could this law do? Large private water utilities with well fields supplying CT drinking water could declare that they "own the groundwater". A major bottling company 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.

***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.***

**Thank you.**

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