

3/12/18

To: The Environment Committee

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB 427: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC TRUST COMPONENTS OF THE STATE WATER PLAN"

Dear Members,

How can you begin to even consider this bill. You are willing to allow a major bottling company, for example, to purchase land, drill a well, claim that all the water coming from that well is owned by them, then bottle it and ship it out of state for profit... REALLY?

You do know that water pumped from any well is coming from a water table that is much like an underground river. The water travels miles upon miles. This bill would allow me the equivalent of buying a Farmington River river-front property, installing a large siphon on that property, then pumping (which is really just diverting) water into a private lake of my own making. Now I can call it mine and sell it? Is the absurdity of this too difficult to comprehend?

The reason water is in the public trust is that it is free-flowing across many humanly manufactured borders...state lines, property lines, and even country borders. Unlike a group of trees that grow within a property, water flows over long distances and without regard to intellectual boundaries. Just because it is siphoned up on a property does not make it the property owner's property.

And yet, this is what the bill before you now is trying to accomplish. Passing this bill will put the regulation and stewardship of the public's water in the hands of for-profit corporations. Please do what you were elected to do. Put the well-being of the public you represent and claim to care about ahead of corporate boards and their paid lobbyists.

Don't do it for me. Do it for your family, your friends and their children, and future generations who will live, or die, with your vote.

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