

March 12, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing to oppose *Raised Bill No. 427, An Act Concerning Public Trust Components of The State Water Plan.*

This is effectively saying that groundwater isn't considered a public trust resource. Yet ground-water and surface water resources are connected. Basic review of the water cycle illustrates their inter-relationship. I worked for 14 years as a ground-water consultant and at least an equal number of years on surface water issues with watershed organizations, and have no doubt that ground water and surface water are linked; both by water volume and by water quality.

The public trust doctrine is well established for water in Connecticut, and it protects individuals as much as it may require reasonable use from them and everyone else. If private well owners are nervous about regulations determining how much they can pump; they should be equally nervous about someone installing a bigger well or bigger pump next door and pumping their well dry.

If this rule is passed, the only benefit will be to lawyers, as we will all go to court to determine where the groundwater resource ends and the surfacewater resource begins. Please do not approve this rule; it is contrary to existing policy and would encourage unsustainable use of a shared resource.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Smith
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