

OPPOSE RAISED SB 427: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC TRUST COMPONENTS OF THE STATE WATER PLAN"

I am opposed to SB 247. This bill dilutes the public trust doctrine in CT Statute 22a-15 "there is a public trust in the air, water and other natural resources of the state". This bill would allow private water utilities supplying public drinking water from wells to declare that they own the groundwater. A bottling company could purchase land, drill a well and escape regulation while profiting from Connecticut water. Unregulated withdrawal from wells could impact surface water in rivers and reservoirs since they are connected hydrologically to groundwater. With this bill, there is no recourse if too much water is being extracted from a "private well".

This bill is an attempt to undermine the state water plan's scientific approach to ensure that future decisions about managing Connecticut's water resources take into account that water is a public resource for everyone and should be protected for everyone especially generations to come.

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