



Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA)
Before the Energy & Technology Committee
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), which represents municipal, private and regional water companies, respectfully ***opposes*** **SB-678, AN ACT CONCERNING MARKINGS MADE PURSUANT TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG REQUIREMENTS.**

The Call Before You Dig (CBYD) program is critical to protecting the safety of the public from excavation damage to underground utility facilities, which can cause fire, explosions, injuries, death, and severe disruptions to public utility service.

Excavators are required to contact CBYD at least 48 hours prior to digging. Once CBYD is contacted, all utilities in the area are notified and must locate and mark their pipes and cables using paint and stakes to ensure that excavators can conduct their work without causing damage. A color code for marking underground utility facilities is set forth in Section 16-345-5(i) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA).

Marking paint is formulated to dry fast and adhere to hot surfaces, which is critical during the warmer months when excavations are generally conducted. If the paint fades prior to excavation, the markings may be difficult to decipher, posing public safety risks. For this reason, if work has not begun within 30 days of marking the location of the underground utility facilities, the area must be remarked.

By requiring utility markings to be made with materials that “begin to fade”, CWVA is concerned that SB-678 will result in the use of marking paint that may deteriorate too quickly, jeopardizing the safety of workers and the public.

For these reasons, CWVA urges lawmakers to oppose SB-678.