FOR THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT

Public Hearing March 3, 2019

H.B. No. 7194 AAC THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC DRINKING WATER.

Oppose pending clarification.

To: Chairmen Sen. Mary Daugherty Abrams and Rep. Jonathan Steinberg,
And Honorable Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river
organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut’s waters
by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many
river groups, and providing education on water stewardship.

The real-world implication of the first set of changes in this bill are not clear.
Lines 51-54 make ineligible for additional financial assistance under this section “a
for-profit company that is a public-service company.” I am not sure what public
service company or companies are referenced here. But, since this is a new
amendment, it could be that the for-profit public service company intended is
Eversource, which relatively recently bought Aquarion water company.

But lines 55-62 appear to reverse course and permit the delivery of such funding
to a for-profit public service company for eligible costs of eligible drinking water
projects. I can surmise reasons for this wording, but cannot interpret the final
condition: That “the department has consulted with the Public Utilities
Regulatory Authority regarding the public service company's receipt of such
financial assistance.” What does “consulted with” mean. Notice? Approval?
Approval by PURA in writing? Approval accessible to the public?
Section 2 of the bill, allows, I believe, DPH to outsource the specified certification courses and exams to one or more third-parties. Outsourcing can be cost-effective and efficient or not. Please consider making such outsourcing for a limited term, with renewal of the agreement dependent upon a review of performance accessible to the public.

Thank you for your consideration. I apologize if my surmises concerning this bill are off target.

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