



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA)
Before the
Environment Committee
February 10, 2021**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWVA), a trade association of municipal, private and regional water companies, **supports HB-6384, AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES' EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING.**

For water companies, invasive species and cyanobacterial blooms are an increasing concern because they can contaminate drinking water reservoirs by spreading from lakes and ponds located upstream. Aquatic invasive species grow rapidly, are difficult if not impossible to eradicate, and can negatively affect water quality and critical water system components.

CWVA supported the establishment of the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp Program to generate funding to assist municipalities and other organizations in combatting invasive species. HB-6384 builds on this program by requiring the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to develop a report to determine whether funding for the program is sufficient, how funds have been used, and whether additional funding mechanisms are needed.

Requiring DEEP to develop a report will help highlight the value of the program and ensure that addressing concerns regarding aquatic invasive species remains a priority.

CWVA urges support for the bill.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWVA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.