



Testimony
Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director
Connecticut Water Works Association
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 29, 2021

**RE: HB-6666 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), a trade association of municipal, regional and private water companies, appreciates the opportunity to comment in **support of Sections 1-2 of HB-6666, as drafted, and in support of Sections 3-4 of the bill, with minor revisions.**

Sections 1 and 2 – Replacement Wells

Connecticut's water companies are committed to providing residents and businesses with safe, high quality public water supplies, which are critical to public health, sanitation, fire protection, agriculture and economic development. As an organization, we support public policies that ensure that water companies can meet these needs and provide customers with reliable public water supplies at a reasonable cost.

In 2019, the state legislature amended Section 25-22(b) of the general statutes to allow a water company to install a replacement well under certain narrowly defined circumstances. This year, recognizing that other communities will have to replace wells to continue to provide public water supplies to customers, the state Department of Public Health has proposed language to extend last year's legislation to other communities provided the wells meet the same narrowly defined circumstances.

Section 2 authorizes DPH to approve a replacement well in other communities provided such well is 1) necessary to meet current system demands; (2) located in an aquifer of adequate water quality determined by historical water quality data from the well it replaces; and (3) in a more protected location when compared to the well it is to replace.

This change will be helpful in ensuring that communities may continue to rely on high quality public water supplies.

Section 3 and 4 – Notification of Proposed Projects within an Aquifer Protection Area

Connecticut's water companies develop and implement multi-barrier source water protection programs which are critical to minimizing risks associated with activities that may impair water quality.



Requiring applicants before Zoning, Planning & Zoning and Zoning Boards of Appeals to notify water companies regarding proposed activities helps us provide municipalities with information on whether a proposed land use activity may undermine the quality and protection of public water supplies and whether design and operational safeguards should be required to protect such supplies. In addition to notifying public water suppliers, applicants are required to notify the state Department of Public Health, which has primacy over drinking water in this state. Such notifications are an important tool in protecting the quality of Connecticut's public water supplies.

To facilitate notification, CWNA recommends the following change in the language in both Section 3 and 4 to provide that such notices may be provided to the water company via email:

“Such notice shall be [made] sent to the water company by certified mail, return receipt requested, **or by electronic mail if the water company has provided instructions for such electronic transmittal on its Internet web site**, and to the department by electronic mail to the electronic mail address designated on its Internet web site for receipt of such notice. Such notice shall be mailed not later than seven days after the date of the application.”

Thank you for your consideration.