

Testimony to the Public Health Committee

March 29, 2021

House Bill 6666: An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is a nonprofit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 42.5 million gallons of water per day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 communities in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education and research.

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on **House Bill 6666 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes**

The RWA respectfully requests that Sections 3 and 4 of this bill be amended to include language that would expand the electronic notifications requirement to include water utilities. If a proposal before a municipal land use commission would include work done in an aquifer protection area or watershed land owned by a water company, notices to the affected water company may be electronically mailed to the water company.

This bill would allow the applicant or petitioner of a development project to electronically notify the Department of Public Health if a proposal would include work within an aquifer protection area delineated pursuant to section 22a-354c or the watershed of a water company. The electronic notification option should also be available to the affected water company. To ensure that the notification is received, we propose that water companies would be required to identify on their website the correct email address for the notification to be sent to.

We respectfully request that the following language be added to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 8-3i and Sec. 22a-42f.

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 considering the Regional Water Authority's comments. If you have additional questions, please contact Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist, at 203-889-1981 or by email at lvitagliano@rwater.com.