



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ANNE MEIMAN HUGHES

135TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Date: Feb. 7th, 2020

To Representative Brandon McGee, Co-Chair, Housing Committee, Senator Saud Anwar, Co-Chair, Housing Committee, Representative Kara Rochelle, Vice Chair, Senator Douglas McCrory, Senator Tony Hwang, Ranking Member, Representative Zullo, Ranking Member

From: Representative Hughes

Re: Proposed Bill to update/clarify CT's Housing Land Use policy to protect Public Water Supply Reservoirs from Intentional/Unintentional contamination, leaching, pollutants in wake of EPA Clean Water Protections rollback.

I am writing to respectfully request that the Housing Committee raise legislation to protect and clarify accountability, enforcement and protection specifications for drinking water reservoir supply, in light of the EPA's rollback of federal Clean Water Protection, and the subsequent gap of accountability that squeezes cash-strapped municipalities between development, housing, limited tax base revenue, and public drinking water supply protection needs.

As a legislator who represents towns with HALF of the town's property owned by Aquarian Water Company of CT – the major water supplier of Fairfield County, including Easton, whose land is 90% public drinking water supply, also classified as Source Protection Area/Class AA watershed, I urge coordination of the State's responsibility, statutes, and clarification of accountability and enforcement from the different owner/agents, and update what resources and flexibility can be galvanized to protect and improve the security of the drinking water from pollutants, spills, leaching of toxins, or development impact that is ever more likely with the EPA's recent protections rollback.

As a legislator who strongly supported the adoption of our state's first Water Plan, I advocate for the resources and agents responsible for enforcing and protecting our clean drinking water must be reviewed and clarified, as towns struggle to balance protecting public drinking water supply watershed with responsible sustainable development, increasing affordable housing, and develop responsible revenue streams to support local services and infrastructure.

I look forward to working with the Housing Committee in discussing this legislation further to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Representative Anne Hughes

135th District

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at anne.hughes@cga.ct.gov, or 860-240-8585.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "H".

State Rep Anne Hughes
135th District