



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AGENDA 2022

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- *Target state and federal funding opportunities to provide grants to all water companies for critical infrastructure investments and upgrades, including lead service line replacement programs;*
- *Utilize a scientifically defensible, risk-based and data-driven process to develop drinking water standards for PFAS that are reasonable and appropriately protective of the public health;*
- *Adopt legislation requiring the CT Siting Council to fully consider the impact on water quality and quantity with regard to the siting of solar installations and other renewable energy facilities on watershed lands; and*
- *Prioritize opportunities for water companies to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency by ensuring eligibility for the state's various energy programs.*

PROTECTING CONNECTICUT'S WATER QUALITY

Connecticut's public water suppliers are committed to providing residents and businesses with safe, high quality public water supplies at a reasonable cost.

PFAS – In 2020, Governor Lamont's PFAS Working Group issued a report outlining action steps that Connecticut should take to address growing concerns regarding the possible health risks associated with certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) In addition, U.S. EPA, which had previously delayed moving forward with efforts to update standards for PFAS, has begun the process of developing drinking water standards for PFAS. *To address concerns regarding PFAS, CWWA recommends the following approach:*

- Utilize a scientifically defensible, risk-based and data-driven process to develop drinking water standards for PFAS that are reasonable and appropriately protective of the public health;
- Provide public water suppliers with clear, consistent guidance and reasonable compliance timeframes to address any PFAS contamination, which may require significant costs for treatment or to secure additional supplies;
- Continue to utilize a comprehensive approach in addressing concerns regarding PFAS, including strategies to 1) prevent the introduction of PFAS in the environment; and 2) remediate areas that are contaminated with PFAS; and
- Target state and federal funding to assist water companies in complying with any new state or federal requirements regarding PFAS, similar to New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Lead and Copper - EPA has adopted revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule which will require public water suppliers and other water systems, such as schools, to address concerns regarding lead levels in drinking water. *On the state level, CWWA supports the following recommendations:*

- Assist the state in addressing lead in drinking water by: 1) targeting federal funding to provide grants to assist water companies in replacing customers' lead service lines; 2) developing regulatory tools to allow for timely recovery for costs of compliance with lead and copper rule; 3) developing programs to assist consumers in identifying potential



sources of lead in their homes, businesses, and institutional buildings and mitigating such risks; 4) supporting efforts to encourage school systems to test and monitor for lead; and 5) developing public education and outreach materials concerning lead in drinking water, particularly schools.

WATER SUPPLY PLANNING & CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

In 2019, Connecticut adopted a comprehensive State Water Plan to guide decisions affecting Connecticut's water resources. In addition, the state has moved forward in completing the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) process and the Governor's Council on Climate Change has developed recommendations to address the need for greater resiliency.

CWWA supports the following recommendations relative to these efforts:

- Ensure implementation of the State Water Plan and the WUCC process provides for the continued availability of high quality public water supplies, including 1) funding for and authorization to use interconnections to increase water companies' operational flexibility, enhance resiliency, and address water supply issues, such as the extension of public water service to areas affected by contaminated private wells; 2) stronger mechanisms for enforcing water use restrictions during drought and other water supply emergencies; and 3) protection of safe yield and margin of safety to ensure adequate water supplies.
- Support recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change that address the need for greater resiliency and treatment methods to protect the quality and availability of public water supplies;
- Support the Connecticut Green Bank's efforts to leverage financing to invest in environmental infrastructure projects such

as structures, facilities, and improvement projects related to water, climate adaptation and resiliency; and

- Authorize the Green Bank's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) to finance the installation of zero-emission vehicle refueling infrastructure and resilience improvements.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Source water protection is critical to ensuring the safety and quality of Connecticut's public water supplies. Protecting source water from contamination can reduce treatment costs and risks to public health. *CWWA supports the following recommendations:*

- Adopt legislation requiring the CT Siting Council to fully consider the impact on water quality and quantity with regard to the siting of solar installations and other renewable energy facilities on watershed lands;
- Increase funding for the state's Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition program, which has been a successful tool in source water protection;
- Expand the use of Green Snow Pro training and certification to promote best management practices to reduce impacts of deicing chemicals on private wells and public water supply sources; and
- Increase the state's efforts to address invasive species/plants.

CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity threats continue to pose significant risks for businesses, including water companies. *To protect the safety and reliability of public water supplies, CWWA supports the following recommendations:*

- Assist water companies in developing and implementing effective cybersecurity protocols; and



- Continue to provide water companies with tools to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a cybersecurity incident, including training and response exercises, incident action checklists, and vulnerability assessments.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Water companies are committed to providing customers with safe, reliable drinking water at a reasonable cost but face challenges due to the costs of replacing aging infrastructure, upgrading dams, treatment, and distribution systems to comply with new state and federal laws and regulations. *CWWA supports the following recommendations:*

- Authorize water companies to recover Water Quality & Resiliency surcharges for eligible improvements to upgrade aging water treatment systems, comply with the lead and copper rule, or to meet new water quality standards;
- Support increased funding for the state's Public Water System Improvement Program and extend eligibility for the program to private water companies in addition to municipal and regional water companies to support needed infrastructure projects, including water main extensions, and compliance with new state and federal requirements regarding PFAS and other emerging contaminants; and
- Ensure that the state targets federal funding to provide grants to water companies to assist in addressing lead service line replacements, emerging contaminants, and critical infrastructure projects.

COST & OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- Streamline the process for obtaining Sale of Excess Water Permits and extend the duration of those that are issued;

- Reinstate the sales tax exemption for private water company purchases to eliminate an inequity in the tax code which imposes a disproportionate burden on customers of private water companies; and
- Exempt water utility trucks from the recently enacted Highway Use Tax which imposes a cost and administrative burden on private water utilities.

WATER/ENERGY NEXUS

Water treatment and distribution systems are very energy intensive. As such, energy efficiency programs are critical to water utilities in controlling costs and customer rates as well as in promoting water conservation. *CWWA supports the following recommendations:*

- Prioritize opportunities for water companies to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency by ensuring eligibility for the state's various energy programs; and
- Ensure that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA) ratemaking policies reflect investments and operating expenses needed to support increased energy efficiency at water utilities.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Connecticut's water companies employ approximately 5,000 people throughout the state in a wide range of positions. However, there have been an unprecedented number of retirements in the industry and water companies are struggling to find qualified applicants. *CWWA supports the following recommendation:*

- Continue to support programs at the state's community colleges and universities that encourage and prepare students to pursue careers in the water sector.