



Testimony
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Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the Environment Committee
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), a trade association of municipal, private, and regional water companies, ***supports* SB-145, AN ACT STUDYING THE REMEDIATION OF HYDRILLA IN STATE LAKES AND THE EXPEDITING OF PERMITS RELATED TO SUCH REMEDIATION.**

By determining effective methods for the remediation of hydrilla in state lakes and expediting permits for such remediation, SB-145 will help protect the quality of the state's drinking water supplies.

Connecticut's water utilities are committed to protecting the safety, quality, and availability of the state's drinking water supplies to meet the state's public health and safety needs. This includes developing and implementing comprehensive source water protection programs to protect drinking water sources from contamination.

Invasive plants such as Hydrilla, which grow and spread rapidly between water bodies, pose a serious threat to the quality of Connecticut's drinking water supplies. Hydrilla, which can grow up to a foot a day, must be eradicated quickly because once it is established it is extremely difficult and costly to address.

Hydrilla can negatively impact drinking water quality by promoting the growth of toxic blue-green algae, altering PH nutrient levels, and releasing organic matter that affects the taste and odor of water. Hydrilla can also clog water distribution systems, dams, pumps and other critical infrastructure, undermining the delivery of drinking water and resulting in increased capital and operational costs to repair infrastructure, treat water, and eradicate Hydrilla.

Because Hydrilla spreads quickly to nearby water bodies, a comprehensive, coordinated approach is needed to safely eradicate Hydrilla to protect the state's drinking water supplies. Although we recognize that the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has made significant strides in expediting permitting, given the need for rapid response in addressing Hydrilla, issuing remediation permits should be a top priority.

Although expediency is critical to addressing Hydrilla, certain herbicides may not be used in drinking water watersheds due to public health concerns. Recognizing this, there is a Memorandum of Understanding between DEEP and the Department of Public Health, which has



primacy over drinking water, which clearly defines which herbicides can and cannot be used in drinking water watersheds.

Accordingly, CWVA urges lawmakers to support SB-145 to proactively address concerns regarding Hydrilla to help protect the purity and integrity of the state's drinking water supplies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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.