

September 25, 2018

Dear Public Utility Regulatory Authority:

I am writing on behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association to express our concerns about the very little information we have on: *Docket Number 18-07-10: Application of SJW Group and Connecticut Water Service, Inc. for Approval of Change of Control.*

We were alarmed by the acquisition of Aquarian by Eversource because of the many potential conflicts of interest that will arise when the interests of power and water providers inevitably intersect and conflict. We are again alarmed at the proposal of selling a CT water utility to a company outside of the State, especially to a company in California which suffers from severe water shortages.

Before any such sale takes place, we have several questions we think should be answered by the state legislature.

How many water suppliers and of what kind would be best for Connecticut?

What do our laws say about the acquisition of water companies by companies outside the state and by companies with inherent conflicts of interest, given that water is a resource of the public trust? What should they say?

We believe that legislation of some sort is needed to ensure that our water supply system operates consistently with the statute stating that water is a public trust resource.

Are there, or should there be, laws or regulations that protect water, a public trust resource, by limiting the ability of any private (or public) company or person from buying every water utility in the state? The state Water Plan has not addressed this issue. Should this issue be addressed in the state Water Plan before any more acquisitions of our water companies occur?

If the sale were to take place, what would the state's regulation and oversight be of this private out-of-state company? How would such oversight be funded in Connecticut? The Norwalk River Watershed Association requests that the citizens of Connecticut be provided more analysis and information about how such a sale will potentially affect the supplies of water that we depend on. We would like to know how water quality and water flows will be protected if the sale were to take place.

We oppose this sale until these questions are answered and the state of CT has legislation in place that protects our water supply system ensuring that it operates consistently with the statute stating water is a public trust resource.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer, President
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