



TESTIMONY
February 24, 2025

**HB 6995 AAC THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF
HARTFORD COUNTY**

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Rahman and Rep. Kavros DeGraw,
Distinguished Members of the Planning & Development Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 6995 to allow Charter revisions to the Metropolitan District Commission.

This quasi, public-private authority has long been at the center of controversy due to its lack of accountability and for policy decisions that have not always been in the best interest of the public.

While there are clear benefits to incorporating non-contiguous towns into MDC's service area, any expansion must be accompanied by greater transparency and accountability.

If the legislature is going to allow revisions to MDC's charter, it should also use this moment to require long overdue reforms to its operations, and a full review and update of its Charter.

Many good proposals have been put forward in past years, most recently to establish a **task force** to examine the organization and its operations.

The MDC's failed business model is based on the need to sell ever larger quantities of water to remain solvent and maintain their water infrastructure. According to the MDC Public Advocate, this is a "conservation death spiral."

MDC has been unable to find savings or alternatives to this unsustainable model, so a new "set of eyes" independent of the MDC is needed. A task force would oversee an independent review of rate structures, ensuring financial decisions are sound, equitable, and sustainable.

We urge you to make the requested MDC charter revisions contingent upon a full review of their Charter and operations.

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