

The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE Release
October 30, 2015

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State Representative John Hampton Submits Testimony Opposing the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project

Cites detrimental impact on drinking water, Farmington River

Simsbury's State Representative **John K. Hampton** recently submitted testimony to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in strong opposition to the Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan proposal to install a natural gas pipeline through the Class I and Class II watershed land (through Simsbury) owned by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

"A gas pipeline installation on this land has the potential to impact both a high quality drinking water source and the Farmington River," said **Rep. Hampton**. "I believe allowing for the installation of this pipeline through this environmentally sensitive area would undermine some of the protections Connecticut has put in place to protect these precious natural resources and clean drinking water."

Rep. Hampton's interpretation of the current state general statute 25-32 requires a change of use permit from the CT Department of Public Health for these types of projects. The existing gas pipeline and easement on the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) property existed before this statute was adopted. Rep. Hampton believes this proposal, (FERC Docket No. PF14-22-000) to install new pipeline and enlarge the permanent right-of-way, is inconsistent with the intent of CGS 25-32.

"Allowing for an exception to this statute would set a dangerous precedent and open the door for other future encroachments on water supply land. In the past, Connecticut has set high standards for protecting environmentally sensitive habitats, natural resources and clean drinking water," said **Rep. Hampton**. "We must use caution and extreme care whenever we make important decisions on these types of projects. Once we allow a company to break ground and encroach upon such habitats such as the Farmington River Valley there is no going back. All potential negative consequences must be carefully considered."

Rep. Hampton offered a potential solution --*“that Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan be required to consider and submit all alternative and less invasive paths for this pipeline other than the route that goes through Class I and II watershed land.”*