



# Town of Hull



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
HULL, MASSACHUSETTS 02045

February 21, 2012

Senator Cynthia Stone Creem, Chairman  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
State House 405  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty, Chairman  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
State House 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Creem and Chairman O'Flaherty:

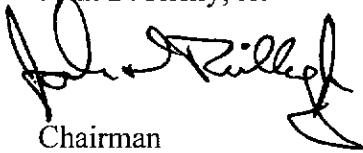
On behalf of the residents of the Town of Hull, we are asking for favorable action on Senate Bill 2040. Currently the Town of Hull is one of a very few communities in the Commonwealth that is served by the Aquarion Water Company – a private water company. The majority of the Commonwealth's residents are served by a public water department in their community or the MWRA. As such the rate making process for those who live in communities served by a public water utility is local, transparent and accountable.

Senate Bill 2040 seeks to amend MGL Chapter 12, Section 11E to permit the Attorney General's Office of Ratepayer Advocacy to intervene in rate setting cases in a similar fashion as is currently done with other private utilities, primarily gas, electric, transmission and telephone rate requests. This need for intervention is warranted by the very aggressive and frequent rate increase requests that have occurred in the last few years and are projected to continue. Currently, our water rates are the highest in the Commonwealth. Every time the Aquarion Water Company files for an increase, the five affected communities: Hingham, Hull, Cohasset, Millbury and Oxford must expend a considerable sum of time, energy and funds to protect the residents from the predatory increases being requested before the Department of Telecommunications and Energy. Our communities need the resources, expertise and leadership that the Attorney General's Office of Ratepayer Advocacy can bring to a rate setting hearing.

Senate Bill 2040 would provide vital consumer protection to our communities and help bring some equity to our plight. In short, we are requesting that Massachusetts residents served by a private water utility are afforded the same protections that are currently extended to users of other private utilities. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Hull Board of Selectmen,

John D. Reilly, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Reilly, Jr.", written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Chairman  
Hull Board of Selectmen

cc: Senator Robert L. Hedlund  
Representative Garrett Bradley  
Hingham Board of Selectmen  
Oxford Board of Selectmen  
Millbury Board of Selectmen  
Cohasset Board of Selectmen