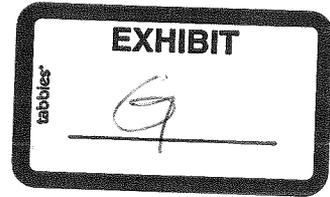


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## Testimony in Support of the Proposed Changes to the Well Drilling Code

Currently the installation of geothermal heat exchange systems is largely unregulated in Connecticut. Geothermal heat exchange systems can provide an alternate means to lower one's energy costs in this time of spiraling prices. However, improper installation of such systems can lead to contamination of Connecticut's groundwater resources. Regulation of this industry, therefore, is needed to ensure protection of one of our most precious resources.

Section 34 of Special Act 06-6 required the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection, to review and make recommendations regarding bore holes to be used for the development of closed loop geothermal heat pumps or similar systems, and specifically the abandonment, construction of and appropriate separating distances between such bore holes. The three agencies convened a workgroup to study the issues and report to the legislature. The workgroup consulted with industry stakeholders to develop regulations that are reasonable for industry compliance, protective of the environment, and protective of public health.

These proposed regulations are the result of the workgroup's effort. The DPH has researched and reviewed these proposed regulations and firmly believes that:

1. The specified construction standards and licensure requirements for individuals installing such systems helps to safeguard the consumer from substandard work practices.
2. Limiting the types of materials used for heat transfer fluids and grouts to either food-grade or NSF approved materials is protective of the environment and public health.
3. The proposed separation distances coupled with the construction standards and allowed heat transfer fluids and grouts for closed loop geothermal systems are protective of the public health.

The DPH strongly supports adoption of these proposed regulations.

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