

Senator Jonathan Harris and Rep. Betsy Ritter *Named CWWA Legislators of the Year*

Senator Jonathan Harris (D-West Hartford, Bloomfield, Burlington & Farmington) and Representative Betsy Ritter (D-Waterford, Montville) received Legislator of the Year Awards from The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) for their dedication to sound public policies affecting Connecticut's public water supplies and water quality.

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) is an association of municipal, private and regional water utilities that promotes state policies that assure reliable, high quality water supplies to protect the public health and safety.

In presenting the award to Sen. Harris, Carlene Kulisch representing the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority said, "His efforts to win passage of legislation enhancing the state's water supply planning process are critical to the state's public health and safety as well as our quality of life. Sen. Harris recognizes that Connecticut's water industry is facing significant challenges – infrastructure replacement, climate change, water quality protection – and has demonstrated a commitment to help us address these issues."


"His leadership on water supply issues recognizes that Connecticut residents rely on public water utilities to provide them with a reliable supply of safe, high quality water at a reasonable cost," said Guy Russo of Middletown Water & Sewer. "Sen. Harris also recognizes the need to craft laws affecting our water supplies in ways that balance environmental protection with other critical needs - public health, safety and economic development."



(l to r) Guy Russo, Rep. Betsy Ritter, Maureen Westbrook and Carlene Kulisch. (Photo by Kathy Fortin)

In presenting the award to Rep. Ritter, Maureen Westbrook of the Connecticut Water Company said, "Rep. Ritter played a leadership role in winning passage of legislation to enhance the water supply planning process which is critical to meeting the water resources needs of Connecticut residents. The legislation also emphasizes the need for water companies to focus on replacing and upgrading their aging water infrastructure, which will directly benefit consumers by protecting water quality and assuring continued reliability of service."

"Throughout her legislative career, Rep. Ritter has displayed a tremendous ability to balance the competing interests of various groups and move forward with legislation that makes sense for Connecticut citizens. Infrastructure replacement, climate change and source water protection are all critical issues facing our industry that will benefit from this type of leadership," added Russo.

The awards were presented to Sen. Harris and Rep. Ritter at CWWA/CTAWWA Annual Fall Meeting held in Wallingford on October 23. 

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