

By Mr. Buell of Boxford, petition of Gary F. Dunn for legislation to require an environmental impact statement for public approval before adding substances to any water supply. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT STIPULATING THAT HUMAN BEINGS ARE A NATURAL RESOURCE AND THAT NO SUBSTANCE MAY BE ADDED TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES WITHOUT FIRST ABSOLUTELY DETERMINING THAT IT WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 61 of chapter 30 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by adding the following two paragraphs:—

3 Damage to the environment further shall be construed to mean
4 that human beings shall be deemed to be natural resources of the
5 commonwealth and no addition to public water supplies for
6 domestic use of any substances for health purposes, or any other
7 purpose, may be made by any agency, department, board,
8 commission, authority or authority of any political subdivision
9 unless and until a complete environmental impact statement has
10 unequivocally demonstrated and stated that any resultant mineral
11 or chemical content increments and/or any resultant compound or
12 complexed compounds, to any degree, will not, in the immediate
13 or short or long term, adversely affect human beings or the public
14 health in any manner.

15 No past, present or future ministerial or categorical exemptions,
16 or general exemptions in any rules or regulations shall serve to
17 evade or avoid said required environmental impact report nor
18 serve as an excuse to not so prepare and submit such report to
19 properly noticed public hearings after which the secretary shall
20 review, evaluate and approve or disapprove said report, using

21 personnel and facilities within and without his office, provided that
22 within his office, the personnel shall be competent, impartial,
23 neutral, objective, responsible and previously uncommitted
24 persons and the secretary shall further consult with a panel which
25 shall include lay citizens, travelers, sojourners, and representatives
26 of racial minorities, industry, commerce and part or full time users
27 and consumers of said public water supplies.