



Support S.482 / H.902, An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All – Guidance for Submitting Testimony

About the Legislation:

An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All (bill numbers [S.482](#) and [H.902](#)) aims to provide protections for households who rely on private wells for their drinking water. This bill would enable the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop a set of health-based regulations which would provide statewide water quality standards for private drinking water wells.

The regulations themselves would be developed by drinking water experts at MassDEP, likely in consultation with a technical advisory group and with a process for public input. To maximize public benefit, the bill would require MassDEP to evaluate practices to minimize the paperwork burden for private well owners.

In addition, the bill would expand the existing MassHousing Septic Repair Loan Program (SRLP) to provide low-income homeowners with access to financial assistance to remediate contaminated private wells.

For more information about private wells, potential contaminants, why regulations are needed, and the Coalition for Safe Drinking Water, please visit: <https://whatsinyourwellwater.org/>

Tips for Submitting Testimony:

- Write your testimony from a personal perspective. Focus on details as to how this legislation would impact you.
- Consider the group you represent. Are you a homeowner? Health agent? Town administrator? Other stakeholder? Share why being a member of one of these groups led you to supporting this act.
- Keep it short and sweet! Be sure to focus on the key points:
 - The importance of statewide private well regulations
 - The fact that there are currently no regulations to ensure private well water is free of contaminants
 - Ensuring private well water is held to similar standards as public drinking water
 - [The many health problems that contaminants can cause](#)

How to Submit Your Testimony:

1. Find the contact information for your legislators by [clicking here](#).
2. Contact your legislators and ask them to support efforts being made to enact statewide private well regulations, including *An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All* (bill numbers S.482 and H.902). **Sample messages can be found on the next two pages.**
3. Forward this document to your friends and colleagues and ask them to take action.
4. Finally, don't forget to cc communications@rcapsolutions.org on all emails so we're alerted once you've taken action!



Sample Email Template:

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

I am writing in support of S.482 and H.902, *An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All* (sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representative Dan Sena, and Representative Smitty Pignatelli). This act would enable the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop a set of health-based regulations which would provide statewide water quality standards for private wells used for drinking water. In addition, the bill would expand the existing MassHousing Septic Repair Loan Program (SRLP) to provide low-income homeowners with access to financial assistance to remediate contaminated private wells.

Over 500,000 residents in Massachusetts rely on private wells for their drinking water, yet there are no statewide regulations to ensure their water is safe and free of contaminants such as arsenic, E. coli, radon, uranium, and PFAS. In contrast, public water systems are subject to MassDEP Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.00), which set enforceable legal standards for water quality by which public utilities are required to comply.

From 2020 to 2022, the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health (a community partnership led by RCAP Solutions and The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts), conducted over 500 water quality tests across several Massachusetts towns and found that approximately 32% of wells had levels of contaminants exceeding state health standards and/or suggesting potential health risks.

The longer we delay action, the longer private well owners remain at risk of drinking water with harmful contaminants. These health-based regulations for private wells coupled with financial resources for private well homeowners would lead to a public health benefit. I hope that you will support S.482/H.902, *An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All*. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]
[YOUR ORGANIZATION, IF APPLICABLE]



Sample Phone Script:

Hi, my name is _____. I live/work in Senator/Representative _____'s district. May I speak to Senator/Representative _____ or their staff?

I am calling today in support of *An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All* (bill numbers S.482 and H.902). This act would enable the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop a set of health-based regulations which would provide statewide water quality standards for private wells used for drinking water. In addition, the bill would expand the existing MassHousing Septic Repair Loan Program (SRLP) to provide low-income homeowners with access to financial assistance to remediate contaminated private wells.

Over 500,000 residents in Massachusetts rely on private wells for their drinking water, yet there are no statewide regulations to ensure their water is safe and free of contaminants such as arsenic, E. coli, radon, uranium, and PFAS.

These health-based regulations for private wells coupled with financial resources for private well homeowners would lead to a public health benefit.

Will you support S.482/H.902, *An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All*?