

I think the DSIC is a terrible idea. If the DSIC passes, it will remove tremendous amounts of public accountability and oversight, while likely raising rates for consumers, increasing profits for private companies and further exacerbating water privatization in NJ. This would be a huge roll back in regulatory oversight and a major loss to consumers.

The DSIC will make it easier for private water companies like United Water, owned by Suez Environnement, to get contracts in New Jersey. Suez Environnement has a poor track record in the United States. From sewage overflows in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to contaminated drinking water in Gloucester, Massachusetts, serious problems have afflicted municipalities across the country after they turned their water or sewer systems over to Suez-owned United Water. These problems are detailed in a report by Food & Water Watch available online at <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/report/united-water/view-in-full/>.

The legislature should be pushing for policies that will increase resources available to public utilities, rather than pushing for policies that will benefit private water companies at the expense of the public.

John Leschak
15 Remsen Drive
Howell, NJ 07731