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CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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Chairman John Betkoski
Water Planning Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

August 22, 2018

Dear Chairman Betkoski,

I write regarding Tilcon's request that the City of New Britain and the Connecticut General Assembly consider a change in use for New Britain Water Company land to accommodate a proposed quarry expansion on that land and the creation of a new public water storage reservoir.

From the outset, I have always been firm in my opinion that any decision on this project would need to be rooted in what's best for the citizens of New Britain and the surrounding region. In that regard, we concurred with the decision of the legislature that the City hire a qualified expert, in this case Lenard Engineering, to conduct an environmental impact study concerning the proposal.

During the period of the Lenard review and examination, the City had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed expansion, as well as to hear directly from the public about their concerns. Consequently, we agree with many of the interested parties that the Lenard study and the public have raised several issues which would necessitate further review before any such project could move forward. Given the increased cost to the City of that additional due diligence, the time it would require and the depth of opposition to the proposal as a result of these unanswered questions, I have concluded that the most prudent course of action at this time would be withdrawal of the proposal from further consideration. I have notified Gary Wall, President of Tilcon, Inc. of my decision.

However, central to my interest in pursuing a thorough examination of this proposal has been my commitment to ensuring that there will always be an adequate supply of clean public water to fulfill the requirements of the citizens of New Britain and others in the region. Our experience in New Britain (and other parts of the state) with drought conditions and the resultant stress on our water supply, in part as a result of changes in our climate patterns, is one which we must not ignore. I am hopeful that all the stakeholders in the region will be willing to take part in the discussions about what measures may be required to ensure that we are responsibly addressing ongoing concerns regarding the adequate supply of clean public water.

Thank you for your continued willingness to be a partner with the City of New Britain and a leader in ensuring the provision and protection of water in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Erin E. Stewart
Mayor

CC: Ray Esponda, New Britain Water Department
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
New Britain Delegation (Senator Gerratana, Rep. Lopes, Petit, Sanchez, Tercyak)
Southington Delegation (Senator Markley, Rep. Aresimowicz, Fusco, Linehan, Sampson)
Plainville Delegation (Senator Martin, Rep. Petit)
Mark Sciota, Southington Town Manager
Thomas Murphy, Southington Water Department
Robert Lee, Plainville Town Manager
Public Health Committee Co-Chairs (Senators Gerratana & Somers, Rep. Steinberg)
Environmental Committee Co-Chairs (Senators Kennedy & Miner, Rep. Demicco)