

# Massachusetts Global Action *Press Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ADVOCATES PROPOSE BAN ON PRIVATIZING PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

BOSTON--Experts from around Massachusetts will **testify in support of House Bill 1333** before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture TODAY (October 24) at 1 p.m. at the Massachusetts State House Annex Hearing Room A-1. If passed, the bill, **“An Act to Preserve Public Water and Sewer Systems,”** would **ban municipalities from selling or contracting control of public water and sewer systems to private companies.**

Jonathan Leavitt, Project Director of “Our Communities, Our Water,” for the statewide social justice organization, Massachusetts Global Action, explains the rationale for the bill: “*Fortune* magazine rightly states that **‘water is the oil of the 21st century.’** It is slowly becoming the power commodity that defines international relationships. That’s why multi-national corporations are rushing to invest in the **new get-rich economy of water.** But water is a basic human need and many nations consider water a human right. So, too, does the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.”

Leavitt goes on to recognize that **“If control over water is handed over to corporations whose purpose is to maximize profits rather than to serve the public good, then hundreds of millions of people could lose access to water.”**

With most people, we feel that governments have a responsibility to ensure universal access to water. Here in Massachusetts publicly-funded, managed, and operated water systems and waste-water systems are the most common approach to maintaining high quality water,” Leavitt concludes.

**The bill will also ban private interests from bottling water drawn from public water supplies.** MGA board member, [Mr.] Suren Moodliar argues that, “This is of great concern because in recent years groundwater levels have fallen dangerously low in a number of watersheds – including the Ipswich, Charles, Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury river basins.”

For more information, check the Massachusetts Global Action website at [www.massglobalaction.org](http://www.massglobalaction.org).