

2/26 AM

**My name is Ginny Gerena and I am a proud member of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I am here to testify in favor of An Act Concerning Environmentally Stressed Communities and Environmental Justice Communities HB5145 and Act Concerning Environmental Justice SB 118. I am concerned about the high number of polluting facilities in Hartford and in other low-income areas and communities of color through out the state and nation. These polluting facilities aggravate many health problems for neighborhood residents. The additional pollution contributes to the high rate of asthma, cancer and breathing problems in our communities. I myself know many Hartford residents who are suffering from asthma and we are effected by the high level of pollution in our community. We carry an unfair burden of the pollution for our region, yet we are least able to carry this unfair burden, because of the many social, economic and health problems we have already.**

**In our proposed legislation we are asking that neighborhood residents be adequately informed when an additional polluter wants to move into our community. We are asking that we be included in the decision making process. We are also asking that the state help us with pollution reduction. In summary, are asking that our health be protected.**

**Please help us pass this legislation. Together we can convince the Legislature and Governor to protect the health of vulnerable communities.**