

Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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**TESTIMONY FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC
HEARING, FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

**RE Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality And the Department of
Environmental Protection**

Dear Sen. Harp, Rep. Geragosian, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is asking the State of Connecticut to please leave the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) independent and intact.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is a non-profit organization comprised of nine members who are physicians and public health professionals dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms.

Because of our work to protect the public from environmental harms, we are well aware of the very important work that the CEQ is performing for the state. The CEQ has two paid staff people that support a large, and hard working, board of volunteers. The CEQ is a good example of how an organization can use non paid, yet informed citizens, to do much of the work while supported by a small paid staff.

Because the CEQ is non-partisan, and because it is NOT connected to any state agency, it can remain independent and therefore be an important voice for the citizens of Connecticut. This independence is critical if we are to get real and unbiased information.

The CEQ works on a very small budget, and yet, because of its volunteer board and its efficient and hard working staff, produces a tremendous amount of important work.

EHHI asks that you allow the CEQ to remain independent and not connect it to the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) or any other State agency. If it is allowed to be connected to a state agency, we will all loose an important safeguard for our environment and our health.

Thank you,
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

