



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice
Joint Committee on Environment – February 18, 2009

In support of:

- **S.B. No. 871 An Act Increasing the Enforcement Authority of the Department of Environmental Protection**

The Division of Criminal Justice supports those elements of S.B. No. 871 that deal specifically with the criminal violation of certain provisions of environmental laws.

Specifically, we support the removal of the word "knowingly" found in line 273 thereby setting a standard for negligence in violating this act. Thereafter, in line 282 the standard of "knowingly" (intentionally) violating these provisions carries a significantly higher penalty.

Including in the statute, provisions for failing to maintain or knowingly destroying, altering or concealing records and increasing penalties from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per violation also gains our support.

The cost of environmental crimes is beyond measure in many cases. Damage to the environment, potential damage to the health of humans and fauna is, in many cases, immeasurable. The cost of clean up and prosecution are calculable and this act more accurately reflects those costs.