

STATEMENT OF S. MICHAEL DEROSA

CO-CHAIR OF THE GREEN PARTY OF CT

My name is Mike DeRosa and I am a co-chair of the Green Party of CT. The Green Party of CT was formed in 1996 to bring our unique analysis of environmental, economic, and other issues to the voters of CT. We also were formed to elect people to office. Presently the 1st select person of Windham CT is Jean de Smet, a Green Party member. Allan Brisson, a Green Party member was recently elected to the city council of New Haven CT. In the past we have elected two other members of the New Haven city council and we elected Elizabeth Horton Sheff to three terms on the Hartford City council. We have numerous CT Green Justices of the Peace, Constables, and others appointed to various boards and commissions throughout the state of CT. We have run numerous candidates for state wide and legislative office and during the last election we ran a candidate in every congressional district in CT. We have been in the forefront of advocating for clean and green energy, single payer health care, lower electric rates, ending our illegal and costly wars overseas, and we were instrumental in the passage of the law that brought the optical scan voting machines and a paper trail ballot to the social construction called elections (to name a few of our accomplishments).

In spite of our involvement in the political system, our success, and our valuable contributions to the political process we are still treated as second or third class citizens because we are required to endlessly collect large numbers of signatures to gain access to the ballot or to qualify us for campaign finance funding. To put it another way: All political parties in CT are equal, but some political parties are more equal than others.

That is why we support bill HB 6436. It is a first step toward reducing the onerous burden placed on third parties and independent candidates in their legitimate quest for full and fair participation in the political process. This bill will significantly reduced the number of signatures necessary to qualify us for a spot on the ballot for state-wide office and will allow us the opportunity to use our energy to raise issues and organize for the actualization of our unique and preferred outcomes, preferred outcomes that value people over profits, democracy over authoritarianism, and a sustainable economy over chaos. This bill will bring CT election law more in line with the ballot access requirements found in the majority of the New England States. More importantly it is a piece of legislation that is fairer and a more constitutional way to organize the social construction called ballot access in the Constitution State.