



Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Committee on Government Administration and Elections
In Opposition, in part, to Governor's Bill No. 6375, AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW
AND TERMINATION OF CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Submitted by Eric Annes, Legal Fellow

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Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE"), with a total membership of approximately 6,000 Connecticut members, uses law and science to defend Connecticut's air, land and water.

CFE strongly opposes the elimination of the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") as contemplated in Governor's Bill 6375. CEQ has a skeleton staff of two yet does an enormous amount of beneficial work within the Department of Environmental Protection (an already overburdened and underfunded department). The council independently monitors environmental indicators in its annual report, hears and responds to citizen complaints and identifies areas where the agency can operate better and more effectively do its job. By making sure DEP does its job effectively, CEQ helps prevent the state from wasting money on ineffective agencies. Thus, the budgetary savings from eliminating the CEQ is ephemeral at best and likely counterproductive. Balancing the budget at the cost of effective government is unwise.