



Connecticut
Petroleum Council

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Written Testimony
Steven Guveyan, Connecticut Petroleum Council
SB-871---DEP Enforcement Bill
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The Connecticut Petroleum Council is submitting these written comments requesting that Section 1 of SB-871 (the DEP Enforcement Bill) be deleted from the bill, before allowing it to move forward. It is important this section be deleted so as not to unfairly hit responsible parties that---except for small paperwork or other minor violations--- “are doing it right.”

Overall, the bill greatly expands DEP’s enforcement authority. It allows the agency to unilaterally issue penalty notices of up to \$100,000 per violation, per day, for even minor first-time paperwork violations that pose no direct threat to human health, welfare or the environment. Examples could include late filing of paperwork pertaining to underground storage tanks, Title V operating permits, and spills from saddle tanks of tractor-trailers.

The key points are that the penalty of up to \$100,000: is extraordinarily high; may be determined unilaterally by DEP; and may be assessed against companies that are not intentional and/or repeat offenders. In this time when state finances are dire, there will be incentive for DEP to assess extremely high penalties in order to balance its budget and pay for its employees----money that rightfully should be paid for from the state budget.

Again, we request that Section 1 be deleted from SB-871, so as not to give DEP unmitigated power in the wide range of situations that confront it.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or comments.