



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY

ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
SUPPORTING

HB-5127, An Act Concerning the Implementation of the Proposals of the Ozone Transport Commission;

HB-5125, AAC the Identification of Source of Pollution Outside of the State that Contribute to the Pollution of the State's Air, Water and Land;

SB-120, AA Authorizing Review of the Department of Environmental Protection's Guidance Statements and Policies by the General Assembly's Regulation Review Committee;

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business advocacy association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of small- and independent- business owners and their workers involved in all types of industry. In short, NFIB represents the small, "Main Street", "Mom & Pop" business owners from across our state. On behalf of those small- and independent- employers in Connecticut, I urge you to support the following three bills:

HB-5127 would ensure Connecticut's small businesses have the opportunity to comment on regional environmental agreements prior to the state committing to implementing them through regulation.

HB-5125 requires a periodic analysis to help ensure DEP regulations focus on key non-business sources of pollution rather than always targeting businesses first.

SB-120 would allow small businesses to challenge directives from the DEP that have not undergone the legislative and multi-agency review associated with the adoption of a regulation.

Though each small business is distinct and makes its own unique contribution to Connecticut's economy, there is one thing all small-business owners have in common: A serious concern about the impact of regulations on their businesses, and in particular, environmental regulations. In the 2008 edition of "*Small Business Problems & Priorities*" by the NFIB Research Foundation, "Unreasonable Government Regulations" ranked as the 6th greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 9th position in 2004. Much like taxes, this generic problem category costs small businesses in several ways: understanding and keeping up-to-date with compliance requirements, costs of consultants, employee time, management time, direct outlays, lost productivity and/or sales, forgone opportunities, etc. The federal government alone proposes approximately 150 new rules every year that cost business owners over \$100 million per rule in compliance costs. Adding state and local laws and regulations merely raises the cost and frustration level for small business. **NFB/Connecticut feels that these three bills are common-sense, positive measures that will go a long way towards helping alleviate the regulatory burden faced by small businesses and we therefore urge passage.** Thank you.