



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – February 22, 2010  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella  
Department of Environmental Protection

### Raised House Bill No. 5125

### AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES OF POLLUTION OUTSIDE OF THE STATE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE STATE'S AIR, WATER AND LAND

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5125, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES OF POLLUTION OUTSIDE OF THE STATE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE STATE'S AIR, WATER AND LAND.

This bill would direct the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) to prepare a report that is overly broad. Therefore, we oppose the bill as drafted, for imposing unnecessary, duplicative, and costly requirements.

Since 1971, the Department, under Title 22a of the Connecticut General Statutes has been charged by the General Assembly to "conserve, improve and protect [Connecticut's] natural resources and environment and to control air, land and water pollution in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state." In preventing and solving environmental pollution problems over the years, the Department has carefully evaluated impacts, targeted appropriate pollutants, and established the necessary regulatory framework to ensure protection of the environment and public health. As a part of this framework, the Department maintains ambient environmental quality monitoring to assess impacts and identify areas of concern. Our air quality monitoring network is a critical component of achieving attainment with the goals of the Clean Air Act and ensuring that the citizens of Connecticut breathe clean air. Similar monitoring efforts support the necessary frameworks for ensuring clean water and to help protect our lands.

The Department is keenly aware that interstate pollution brings detrimental impacts to the people who live and work in Connecticut. As long as the Department has existed, we have worked in a variety of forums to build consensus on regional and national approaches to pollution control and waste disposal. When consensus building has failed to meet our needs, the Department has strongly advocated for the people of the State of Connecticut up to and including petitioning the United State Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Clean Air Act and federal Clean Water Act to address interstate air pollution. We have also worked with the Attorney General's Office to sue the owners of mid-western coal-fired power plants who unreasonably fouled Connecticut air and water.

To undertake a comprehensive report on all pollutants that impact the air, water and land is an unnecessary effort that will divert existing limited resources from fulfilling current responsibilities. However, we do see the potential benefit in soliciting additional help in assessing certain categories of pollutants and their sources, whether industrial or consumer based, or within or from outside our borders.

Therefore, while the Department opposes Raised House Bill No. 5125 as written, we would be happy to work with the committee to identify a narrower review of targeted categories of pollutants that could complement the work regularly underway at the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov).