



**State of Connecticut**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL**

**REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIE CARPINO**  
THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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To: Chairman Hartley, Chairman Dargan, Ranking Member Guglielmo, Ranking Member Giegler and members of the Public Safety & Security Committee

From: Rep. Christie Carpino, 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District (*Cromwell, Middletown, Portland*)

Date: February 15, 2011

Re: Proposed HB No 5802 *An Act Concerning Adopting Certain Safety Recommendations Of The Thomas Commission.*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this legislation.

Last year, residents of the greater Middletown region were rocked by a powerful explosion that claimed the lives of several people while injuring many more.

I represent residents of Middletown and Portland—communities affected significantly by the tragedy at the Kleen Energy construction site. A great number of residents in these towns have contacted me, and continue to contact me, indicating their lasting concerns about safety at this site. “What if it happens again,” is the question I’m often asked.

Of course, it’s impossible to guarantee that anyone, let along this legislature, can prevent any construction accident—no matter the magnitude.

But today—and during this legislative session—we have an opportunity to impose measures that will, at the very least, reduce the odds of a similar tragedy.

I urge adoption certain safety measures recommended by the Thomas Commission, an impartial panel created in response to the accident at the Kleen Energy site.

Through the Commission’s recommendations we have an opportunity to not only move toward preventing such tragedies in the future, but also a chance to assure residents, the injured, and the families of those who lost their lives that we take this issue seriously. Thank you for your consideration.