



Testimony of the
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
to the
Commerce Committee

March 6, 2012

HB 5343: AAC Economic Development Through Streamlined and Improved Brownfield Remediation Programs

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, members of the Commerce Committee, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony today in **Opposition to Subsection 1 (b) of HB 5343**. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, a regional business organization with more than 2,000 members.

While the Chamber recognizes the good intent of HB 5343, there is one subsection of it which does the exact opposite of the bill's intentions, specifically Subsection 1(b) of HB 5343. This section of the bill sets the creation of a new and incredibly broad over-regulated program. Under this subsection, essentially **all** spills of nearly any material and of any quantity in an industrial or commercial setting, including historic releases, would have to be reported to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The reporting requirements alone will cost businesses time and money. This clearly goes beyond the scope of Brownfields Remediation and is very dangerous to CT businesses, jobs and economic development.

The Chamber believes it is safe to say no one is against transforming the current system, but it certainly needs to be properly thought out. We need to ensure our state has a workable and well thought out approach to Brownfields development without making CT more business unfriendly than it currently is.

The Chamber strongly **opposes** Subsection 1(b) of HB 5343 and respectfully urges this committee to delete this section from the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco, Esq., Director of Governmental Affairs, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and (203) 782-4330 or ldicocco@gnhcc.com.