



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 6, 2012
Commerce Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty

Raised House Bill No. 5343 – AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STREAMLINED AND IMPROVED BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAMS.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5343 – AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STREAMLINED AND IMPROVED BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAMS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports this bill that directs DEEP to continue our stakeholder process of evaluating the statutes and regulations that control the cleanup of pollution releases. Further, DEEP is committed to working with stakeholders to develop recommended changes to statutes and regulations by the deadline of January 1, 2013.

This Raised Bill will allow DEEP to continue what has been an exceptionally collaborative and productive process. Since June 2011, DEEP has been engaged with stakeholders in a thorough top-to-bottom review of Connecticut's cleanup program that started with a Public Visioning Session attended by approximately 100 stakeholders. This review also included the evaluation of many critical components of our current program and suggestions for improvement made by six stakeholder-lead workgroups comprised of over 80 stakeholders. These workgroups, along with other valuable stakeholder input, suggestions, and feedback, helped DEEP formulate a vision and conceptual design for an improved cleanup program that was presented in DEEP's Report to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committees on Environment and Commerce on the Comprehensive Evaluation of the Connecticut Cleanup Program and Proposal for Transformation.

While DEEP believes that there is general consensus on the vision and conceptual design as presented, many stakeholders have asked for more time to assist in the analysis, development, and refinement of the details of any proposed statutory and regulatory changes. Given the importance of pollution remediation and Brownfield redevelopment to our environment and economy, DEEP believes that such time would be well spent. Working with stakeholders, DEEP will be able to determine the right balance is established with respect to spill reporting, early off ramps for those performing prompt cleanups, the

expanded use of Licensed Environmental Professionals, and increased options for self-implementation, meaningful public participation, multiple cleanup options, and streamlined processes.

This additional time also will be used further analyze best practices from neighboring states and across the nation. DEEP will incorporate such practices into our cleanup program in order to meet our goal of aligning our cleanup program with the economic, environmental, and public health realities of modern-day Connecticut.

DEEP will ensure that the improved cleanup program will encourage and empower municipalities and the private sector to safely and promptly limit exposure risks posed by releases of pollution. In addition, the program will have the flexibility needed to select a cleanup approach that is commensurate with the risks posed by such pollution. These improvements to the cleanup program are intended to spur investment in Connecticut's Brownfield opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov