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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair*

Commerce Committee
March 6, 2012

Testimony In Favor of
HB 5343 AAC Economic Development Through Streamlined And
Improved Brownfield Remediation Programs
HB 5340 AA Establishing an Energy-related Jobs Task Force

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

HB 5343

DEEP conducted a process in 2011 to examine the state's site remediation programs and consider what changes would create a more effective program. In the fall, six working groups were convened to examine the existing programs, considering the current programs, endpoints and finish lines, triggers and entry points, the LEP program, responsibility and liability, and programs of other states. These groups consisted mostly of environmental attorneys, licensed environmental professionals (LEPs), and DEEP staff. Public interest advocates, and representatives of environmental organizations were pleased to participate as well. I served on one of the groups. The reports from these six working groups were used to craft the DEEP December 21st report to the legislature.

What became clear to many of us that the state was not yet ready to move forward with a comprehensive restructuring of the existing programs. We were very concerned that the legislature would feel compelled to craft a major bill this session when we were clearly not ready.

We were especially concerned that a concept bill, devoid of content and detail, would go to public hearing, to then be fully drafted in the few short weeks before the committee's JF date.

I am here to fully support HB 5343, which gives us until the start of the 2013 session to craft a program which will best serve us for the coming years. We appreciate that the bill explicitly mentions "protection of human health and the environment". We will not accept a program which turns ownership of the process over to the LEPs in the absence of vigorous and effective agency oversight and accountability. That oversight does not currently exist. Paragraph (c) of the bill does address the importance of this issue.

Pleased be assured that my colleagues and I share the same fundamental goals as the business community: a program which will expeditiously remediate contaminated sites and return them to productive use, encompassing both legacy (existing) sites spills yet to come, applying appropriate standards, while fully protecting human and ecological health.

Finally, I renew my plea that the state invest a modest sum in retaining the services of a professional consulting firm to craft recommendations for a successor program.

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HB 5340

It is clear that the state lags far behind in addressing the energy efficiency of buildings, both in terms of codes and standards for new construction, and upgrades to our existing residential and commercial building stock. Energy inefficient buildings require more fuel, cost more money to operate, produce more greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants, and continue our reliance on foreign oil.

HB 5340 presents an opportunity to address this as well as creating local jobs which, by definition, cannot be sent overseas.

The Sierra Club recommends creation of a task force to create programs and incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for both residential and commercial buildings. These programs should use creative funding mechanisms to ensure a very large volume of projects, to be established as quickly as possible.

Bill

We suggest representatives of the following sectors be included in the task force:

- building energy — *energy efficiency ; alternative energy*
 - finance — *Gov*
 - -environment
 - labor — *labor*
 - -contractors
 - -consumer advocates
 - workforce development and training — *workforce development*
 - DEEP, DECD, Labor, and other state agencies — *DECD* [*DEEP, DECD*]
 - CEFIA — *CI*
- Comm colleges
private univ. — engaged in energy*
- State univ
manufacturers
technology*