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Environment Committee
Room 3200
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Opposition to Raised Bill No. 5410: An Act Transferring the Conservation Functions of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to the Department of Agriculture

Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing **in opposition** to Raised Bill 5410 entitled "*An Act Transferring the Conservation Functions of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to the Department of Agriculture*".

First and foremost, this bill runs counter to Governor Malloy's courageous plan to combine the Department of Environmental Protection with the Department of Public Utility Control.

Second, consider that the Legal and Statutory Definition for the word **Agriculture** includes **none** of the functions that the proposed bill would transfer to the Department of Agriculture.

Third, the transfer of land conservation, forestry, parks, fish and game functions would also require transference of the operating funds associated with these activities. **This bill does not provide for this fiscal transfer.** Even if it did, the transfer of these functions to the Department of Agriculture might negatively impact the Priority Status which our Open Space Lands and Natural Resources presently enjoy under DEEP's management. Transfer of these funds away from the DEEP would reduce the fiscal resources the department currently has at its disposal, to insure clean air, water and perform its other functions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above points.

Sincerely,

Frank C. DeFelice