



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment**  
**Environment Committee Public Hearing**  
**March 7, 2012**

**House Bill 5304, An Act Concerning Charitable Contributions Paid In  
Lieu Of Fines For Hunting And Fishing Violations**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to **House Bill 5304, *An Act Concerning Charitable Contributions Paid In Lieu of Fines for Hunting and Fishing Violations***. The bill would allow the court or prosecutor to take into account, in the disposition of a matter, the fact that a donation has been made to either the Turn In Poachers account or the Lobster Restoration account. While the Judicial Branch takes no position on the bill, we would respectfully request that payment be made exclusively to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

As drafted, payment could also be made to the clerk of the court. While clerks currently collect charitable contributions for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF), that fund is under the control of the Judicial Branch. Furthermore, our accounting processes do not permit immediate transmittal of the funds; our distributions are quarterly. Therefore, we would respectfully request that the references to the "clerk of the court" be stricken from lines 14, 15, 42, and 43.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.