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AppropriationTestimony  
Bills 6353 and 6354

To Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to oppose portions of Bills 6353 and 6354 that limit the independence of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC). Based on my experience as treasurer for a candidate and as treasurer for a political party town committee, I feel strongly that the independence of the SEEC in budgeting and staffing is key to assuring the continued integrity of the elections process.

During the 2012 campaign, I served as treasurer for a candidate for State Representative from the 17th District, Connecticut General Assembly. I relied heavily on advice and guidance from the designated Elections Officer in all phases of the process, especially on details of the financing and reporting provisions of the Citizens' Election Program. The ready availability of the Officer was a great help.

Previously, as Treasurer of a political party Town Committee, I also drew heavily on advice and recommendations from the dedicated legal staff of the SEEC, and I participated in training courses and briefings they provided. The assurance that the SEEC was available to give independent guidance and assure unbiased oversight helped persuade me, as a private citizen, to participate actively in our political process and facilitated my work.

Respectfully,

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