Connecticut Chapter
645 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
www.connecticut.sierraclub.org
Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Appropriations Committee
March 22, 2013

Testimony In Opposition to
HB 6353 AAC State Budget Reform

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

I have had personal interaction with agency staff and management from Ethics, FOI, and SEEC, both for the Sierra Club and in my capacity as a campaign treasurer for the past 7 elections.

The past two years has taught us well that moving the watchdog agencies into the new Office of Governmental Accountability has been an enormous and unfortunate mistake. The move, made to reduce the count of the number of agencies, has not facilitated the work of these critically important agencies. It has not made them more effective. It has reduced the morale of agency staff and hobbled their work. Perhaps combining back office functions has saved money, but no more than $200,000. The suggestion to now combine expert staff, such as lawyers and computer specialists, into a single resource makes no sense of any sort whatsoever. The subject area expertise staff accumulates cannot survive such a mixture.

It is said that a government should do no wrong, and must even avoid that perception that something is amiss. Placing the OGA under a political appointee of the governor in no way passes the smell test and creates the perception that a corrupt government is possible, even if there had been no such intent.

It is the unconditional recommendation of the Sierra Club that the OGA be completely dismantled and the watchdog agencies returned to their former status. We have no doubt that the public interest will be best served by this welcome step backwards.