



*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 6354 AA Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations
Concerning General Government

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.

The Council on Environmental Quality has performed yeoman's work over the past 2 decades in observing and commenting on Connecticut's environment. The Council is universally respected and valued. Building such a track record with a staff of only two has been a remarkable achievement.

Placing the CEQ inside the Office of Governmental Accountability serves no public purpose of any sort whatsoever. The CEQ has been comfortably housed within DEEP for administrative purposes, and thrives quite well there. Such a move would constitute yet another finger in the eye of the public trust. The Sierra Club, in testimony on HB 6353, recommends that the OGA be disbanded entirely, as it has unquestionably interfered with the effectiveness of the watchdog agencies, to no benefit. Do away with the OGA, return us to pre-2011 days, and allow the CEQ to remain where it is.

Further, the budget proposal to cut the CEQ staff by half would, by itself, constitute a serious blow to the quality of Connecticut's environment. No other agency is asked to take such a drastic staff reduction.

Leave the staff as is, leave the council as is. For a cost of a minute fraction of the state budget, let us reap the rewards of this agency which has established such a sterling record.