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Waterbury Regional Chamber
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STATEMENT OF LYNN G. WARD, PRESIDENT & CEO of the WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER before the GOVERNMENT, ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE on S.B. 5 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND OTHER ELECTION LAWS.

March 25, 2013

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of Government, Administration and Elections Commission, thank you for incorporating my statement regarding Senate Bill 5, An Act Concerning Changes To Campaign Finance Laws And Other Election Laws, into the public record on this legislation. The Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 13 towns in the Greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of nearly 1,000 members in matters of public policy and economic development, opposes this bill.

While an organization may currently communicate with a specific list of individuals and fall under an expenditure exemption, the modified definition in SB 5 would presumably limit ancillary groups, such as local libraries or newly-formed interest groups that may be included in an organization's communications. This change may have a significant impact on the operating systems and conduct of many organizations.

In addition, we are opposed to provisions that would force the disclosure of dues payments, which are proprietary information and could adversely impact our ability to attract and retain members. However, more importantly, forcing the release of this type of proprietary information would set a dangerous precedent for all membership organizations in Connecticut. Finally, dues payments are often unrelated to campaign expenditures and we are opposed to the bill's provisions to treat them as such.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Lynn G. Ward
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