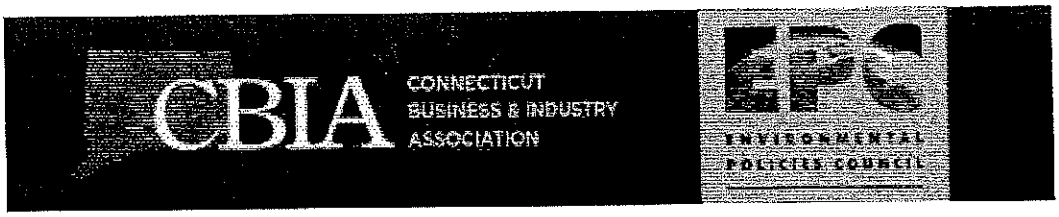


**TESTIMONY OF ERIC J. BROWN**
**ASSOCIATE COUNSEL, DIRECTOR OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**
**CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**
**before the**
**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN**
**March 5, 2013**

Good morning. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as director of energy and environmental policy with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association ("CBIA"). On behalf of our 10,000 large and small member companies throughout Connecticut, we are pleased to have this opportunity to provide comment in opposition to two bills on today's public hearing agenda related to chemical labeling and disclosure.

CBIA is often asked, "What can Connecticut do to become a more attractive place to do business?" One thing we can do is avoid enacting laws and regulations that exist in few if any other states in the nation. Secondly, we should be cautious, if not skeptical, when measures that have been brought before the legislature in the past and failed, are repackaged and remarketed as being needed to protect children. Third, we should avoid measures that make it harder for businesses to invest in our state and grow jobs.

**These two bills fall short in all three of these areas and therefore we urge rejection.**

**H.B. No. 6526** AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC DISCLOSURE AND INNOVATION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN.

and

**H.B. No. 6527** AN ACT CONCERNING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BABY FOOD

**H.B. No. 6526** AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC DISCLOSURE AND INNOVATION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN.

**CBIA OPPOSES THIS BILL**

This bill is a rehash of previous proposals attempting to create a "hit-list" of chemicals to present to the Connecticut legislature for regulation or banning – generally in the absence of similar measures in other states or federal action. The outcome of those previous efforts was the creation of the Connecticut Chemical Institute – an organization housed at the University of Connecticut and tasked with acting as a liaison between the chemical research community, national and international regulators, and Connecticut's business community with the primary goal of assisting them in implementing green chemistry products and practices into their workplace.

Unfortunately, this was not the intent of the original bill which also called for the creation of "chemicals of high concern" lists that would explicitly be presented to the legislature each year. But H.B. No. 6526 goes much further than that previously ill-fated measure. Section 3 of the bill requires manufacturers to provide biannual "Disclosure Notification Reports" and a "Product Innovation Plan" to the Department of Public Health. This "plan" requires a timeframe for removal of the identified chemical from the manufacturer's product within three years, together with an affidavit as to the "inherently less hazardous" nature of a substitute material to children's health. Failure to meet the requirements requires the DPH commissioner to recommend labeling, forfeiture of sale proceeds or civil penalties.

It would be hard to conceive of a more adversarial, anti-business approach to dealing with the issue of chemicals and green chemistry than this bill. It is precisely the type of heavy-handed, expensive (to government and industry), anti-business measure this legislature should be loath to approve.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 6526 and for your consideration of our comments.

**CBIA respectfully urges your committee to reject this bill.**

**H.B. No. 6527** AN ACT CONCERNING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BABY FOOD

**CBIA OPPOSES THIS BILL**

This bill is another attempt to make Connecticut "first-in-the-nation" for a measure that will hurt our businesses and our competitiveness.

Other organizations with greater expertise than ours in the area of genetically engineered foods will present detailed arguments against this proposal. They will speak to the issue of Constitutional problems, of the choice consumers already have to avoid using these products if they wish by purchasing products with the "USDA Certified Organic" label, of how those who market foods without genetically engineered materials are free to add their own label as such if they believe there is a market advantage for doing so, and you will hear of the impact on Connecticut businesses of the bill's proclamation that "no person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale or distribute . . ." these materials under penalty of up to $1,000 per day per product.

What CBIA wishes to emphasize is that this is precisely the type of bill that makes businesses across the nation look at Connecticut and ask themselves, "Why would I ever want to start or move a business to a place so hostile to businesses."

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 6527 and for your consideration of our comments.

**CBIA respectfully urges your committee to reject this bill.**