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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair*

Planning and Development Committee
February 20, 2013

Testimony In Opposition to
SB 814

AAC Intervention in Permit Proceedings Under the CT Environmental Protection Act of 1971

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative 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 am also a Director of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Environmental Protection Act of 1971 (CEPA) has been instrumental in protecting our environment, hence our quality of life, since 1971, well before many federal protections were passed. It allows private citizens access to the courts to ensure these protections.

This bill would have a chilling impact on potential intervenors seeking to ensure that a legal or administrative proceeding effectively protects the environment. It would impose unreasonable conditions on intervenors not imposed on other parties. The effect would certainly be a reduction in the effectiveness of the Act, as it would cripple access to funding these intervenors require.

As CEPA has proven itself an effective and appropriate tool for state-level environmental protection, it should not be altered without clear and compelling reason. No such reason exists here.

While disclosure in other contexts may be in the public interest, the effect of SB 814 would clearly be contrary to such interest.

SB 814 clearly should not pass this Committee.