

Testimony of Diane Lauricella
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Heard by Energy and Technology Committee

H.B. 5410 AAC GAS COMPANIES' COST RECOVERY OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS

Senator Duff
Representative Reed
Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 5410, An Act Concerning Gas Companies' Cost Recovery of Lost and Unaccounted for Gas, a bill that can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the state's natural gas infrastructure while creating good-paying jobs to implement the needed repairs.

The Bill seeks to establish incentives for gas companies to repair pipeline leaks that are allowing methane to escape into our atmosphere. Rather than charging customers for the leakage, gas companies should invest the to repair leaking infrastructure. If the state is going to implement the plan to significantly expand this fossil fuel infrastructure, we must at least ensure maximum efficiency and minimum waste.

Currently, Companies are only required to fix leaks that threaten public safety, and since they can recover the cost of leaked gas, **they have no incentive to repair non-hazardous leaks**. There are problems with this line of reasoning:

- A. Customers are made to pay the cost of gas they are not using.
- B. Methane is a more damaging global warming gas. It is 56 times more damaging than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.

HB 5410 provides an incentive to fix leaks. This will cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the cost of gas.

A similar bill has been in effect in New York State since the 1990s; the New York Public Service Commission estimates it saves consumers in that state \$48 million a year. This is an important program that CT should emulate.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

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