



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Public Hearing – March 4, 2014
Energy & Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Katie Dykes

House Bill No. 5410 (Raised) - AN ACT CONCERNING GAS COMPANIES' COST RECOVERY OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5410 – AN ACT CONCERNING GAS COMPANIES' COST RECOVERY OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP is supportive of the raised Bill's goal of reducing natural gas leaks from our natural gas distribution infrastructure and has called for a zero leak policy. Natural gas—methane—is a potent greenhouse gas if it leaks out from well heads or in the transmission and distribution system rather than being burned for building heating, electric generation or other consumptive purposes. Reducing leaks of gas is one of the most important things that the state can do to ensure that the expansion of natural gas access for Connecticut homes and businesses proceeds in a way that is consistent with our commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and ensure public safety.

Compared to other states in the region, Connecticut's gas companies have made important strides in bringing down the percent of gas that leaks from the system. This percentage is approaching a level that is low enough that it may be coming within the margins of our ability to measure it confidently. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority would be best positioned to comment on the issues that may arise if this bill were to be implemented. DEEP would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on refinements to the approach outlined in the proposed bill to effectively meet the broader objectives of reducing natural gas leaks.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).