



**Testimony of Abraham Scarr, Director
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)
in support of**

**Resolution confirming the nomination of Robert J. Klee from New Haven, to be Commissioner of the
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

Chairperson Looney, Chairperson Janowski and Members of the Committee: My name is Abe Scarr and I am the Director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Resolution confirming the nomination of Robert J. Klee from New Haven, to be Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Mr. Klee's academic background and experience as Commissioner Esty's Chief of Staff for the past three years make him an excellent candidate to be the next Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner. From my conversations with DEEP staff, he is liked and respected within the department, which also speaks in his favor.

As an advocacy organization that has been calling on the state to redouble its efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling, we are particularly pleased by Mr. Klee's considerable knowledge, interest and experience in what we once called "waste management" and now call "materials management." Over the past few years, DEEP and the Malloy administration have paid increasing attention to the way Connecticut handles the material we reuse and recycle, or waste, leading to Proposed Senate Bill 27, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management Strategy. Mr. Klee possesses the necessary expertise to successfully implement the bill, should it pass, as well as deal with any challenges that may arise.

The proposed bill demonstrates a real commitment from the Governor and Department leadership, and presents the opportunity to transform Connecticut's materials management strategies. We look forward to working with Commissioner Klee to successfully implement this transformation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of confirming Robert J. Klee to be Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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