



Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 10, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

The Connecticut AFL-CIO on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women all across this great state oppose as written:

H.B. No. 5431 - An Act Requiring The Suspension Of Administrative Penalties Imposed On Certain Business Entities

We understand the intent of this bill eases business entities from punitive action for first time violations but we urge caution that this legislation, if passed, may be exploited.

We have concerns that "state agency" as defined in this bill is too broad. We also have concerns within the bill addressing first time violators and corrective measures regardless of time frames to rectify. This bill is not accounting for the potential severity of a public health and safety or worker rights violation that may occur and are unacceptable even if they are for the first time. Violations and penalties are on the books for those that make decisions to make correct and proper decisions. Claiming simple innocence does not imply an innocent mistake.

We recommend that the scope of this legislation be narrowed and clarified by sector or issue to address specific areas of intent instead of a broad brush approach.

We appreciate the committee holding this public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd G. Berch

Field Director