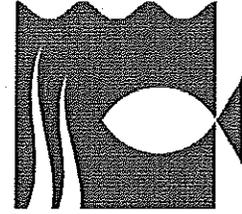


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



Save the Sound[®]
A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Committee on Government, Administration and Elections**

Strongly Opposing No. 5358, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE OR BURDENSOME REGULATIONS.

Submitted by Roger Reynolds
Legal Director
March 3, 2014

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 5,500 members statewide. The mission of the CFE, and its program Save the Sound, is to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment submits this testimony **strongly opposing** proposed bill No. 5358, An Act Authorizing the Regulation Review Committee to Recommend the Repeal of Obsolete or Burdensome Regulations. This bill would be an unprecedented intrusion on the operation of the executive powers by the legislature.

The power to authorize or eliminate regulations is one that is held by the legislature as a whole acting by majority vote. While Article XVIII of the State Constitution allows for legislative review of regulations, this process has made it remarkably burdensome and nearly impossible to pass new regulations. As a result, many regulations that need to be updated have not been and the state has wasted an inordinate amount of resources in an infinitely iterative and never-ending regulation making process.

The executive branch is the one entrusted by the constitution to enact the executive powers that includes the enactment and repeal of regulations. Administrative agencies have the expertise needed to enact regulations in accordance with legislation. When appropriate, the legislature acting by majority vote has the power to repeal and more. Allowing a committee of the legislature the power to repeal without the full accountability and representation that comes with majority vote is inconsistent with our representative democracy.

We believe that shifting this power from the executive branch to a committee of the legislature would create a dangerous imbalance of power that the original founders of the constitution sought to avoid through the separation of powers. We urge you to respect the wisdom of our

founders and the system of checks and balances they created that has served our country and our state so well for hundreds of years.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



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