



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Government Administration and Elections Committee
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**Testimony In Strong Opposition to
HB 5358 AA Authorizing The Regulation Review Committee To Recommend The Repeal
Of Obsolete Or Burdensome Regulations**

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club opposes HB 5358. We find it one of the most inappropriate legislative proposals we have seen.

Yes, we amended our state constitution 30 years ago to allow for such as the Regulations Review Committee, so the concept of the Legislative branch having veto over the rules making process of the Executive does not violate the constitutional separation of powers. At least not in Connecticut. Regs Review must now act before a proposed agency regulation can come to life.

HB5358 takes a giant leap forward, allowing the committee to initiate repeal of a standing regulation. It is simply not in the PUBLIC INTEREST to initiate such a step from within a single committee of the legislature.

Perhaps most odious, the bill provides that the Committee should act if it finds the regulation either (1) obsolete or (2) "too onerous on the persons who are required to comply with the regulation". This bill is absolutely silent on whether the Committee should consider whether the regulation is necessary or protective or appropriate or in the public interest. Thus, a business which is precluded from some economic activity by regulation, could challenge it as onerous simply because it is prohibited from engaging in such activity. That the regulation protects us from, say, significant environmental harm, is **not** to be considered.

The Sierra Club finds that HB 5358 is overwhelmingly hostile to an appropriate and necessary role for government: promulgating regulation which protects the public, protecting the public interest, providing for an equitable economic system.