



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

3 Regency Drive, Suite 204, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Tel: 860-216-5858 Fax: 860-206-8954 Web: www.hbact.org

*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

March 14, 2014

To: Senator Terry B. Gerratana, Co-Chair
Representative Susan M. Johnson, Co-Chair
Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Raised Bill 5537, AAC the Department of Public Health's Recommendations
Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about nine hundred (900) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. Our members build between 70% and 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and countless home improvement projects.

We oppose sections 30 and 47 of HB 5537 and have no comment on the remainder of this 74 page, 51 section bill.

Buried amongst totally unrelated public health provisions, section 30 requires a massive amount of radon test analysis reporting – with detailed information, including any mitigation installations and follow up analysis – to be provided to DPH. But, to what end? No explanation of the need for such extensive reports, how or in what database such reports will be stored, or for what purpose this information will be used is outlined in the legislation. We are very concerned about both the direct increased costs this could impose on real estate transactions and on homeowners and the potential liability for property owners and delays imposed on real estate transactions. And, again, for what purpose?

The five lines of section 47 impose a five-fold increase in fines for violating the lead-abatement consultants, contractors and workers provisions of our statutes. And also new, the fine would be imposed on a daily basis. We are unaware of the necessity of ramping up these fines so significantly, or for that matter by any amount.

As an organization that has worked in the past with DPH on a variety of public health issues related to housing, including lead-paint and radon, we were unaware of these proposals and express our disappointment in the department for not informing us of this effort – even more so for burying these provisions in a large omnibus bill filled with unrelated sections. These provisions, appearing here as they do, unfortunately cement our view of CT as an unfriendly place to do business and counters the good efforts done by some other agencies.

We urge you to delete sections 30 and 47 from HB 5537. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our view on this legislation.