

**TESTIMONY OF ERIC BROWN
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

February 28, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate council and director of energy and environmental policy for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents roughly 10,000 companies throughout Connecticut. Thank you for this opportunity for CBIA to comment in opposition to:

**S.B. No. 126 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO
CHEMICALS.**

Several years ago, the General Assembly created a Chemical Innovations Institute at UCONN. This bipartisan legislation was the result of a consensus reached among business and public health advocates on how to foster green chemistry in Connecticut and reduce the use of toxic chemicals.

The goal of the Institute, as noted on its website, is "to provide resources to employers, workers, and the community to assist in the move to safer [chemical] alternatives and in the understanding of the changing international framework for chemical regulation and what that means for Connecticut businesses."

For example, the Institute has conducted an initial study of chemical use in Connecticut and is now focusing on identifying effective and safer alternatives to the most toxic chemicals.

If the committee and the legislature wish to take a significant step to encourage green chemistry in Connecticut, they should look at providing some funding for the institute. Approving this bill, on the other hand, will provide more reasons for the marketplace to perceive Connecticut as an unfriendly place to start and grow a business.

Accordingly, CBIA urges this committee to reject S.B. 126.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony.