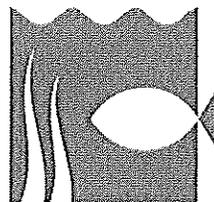


Connecticut Fund
for the Environment



Save the Sound
Approved
By the State of Connecticut

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

***In strong opposition to SB 740, AN ACT CREATING A CENTRALIZED STATE
PERMITTING OFFICE***

Submitted by Zachary Bestor
Legal Fellow / Attorney
February 25, 2015

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 5,500 members statewide. The mission of CFE, and its bi-state 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 Cassano, Representative Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment submits this testimony in strong opposition to SB 740, An Act Creating a Centralized State Permitting Office. If passed, this legislation would establish a centralized state permitting office with streamlined procedures that shall be responsible for issuing all business permits.

First, we must assume that the envisioned permit office would only handle *state* permits, as opposed to municipal or federal permits. Second, we also assume that this office would only handle *permits*, and not licenses or various other regulated procedures.

Permits are necessary to ensure proper planning and oversight of sensitive matters, such as environmental impacts, transit implications, density or use issues, and design and construction constraints. Agencies that are tasked with approving permits have specific expertise to ensure that the purpose of the permit is fulfilled. Creating yet another department would be duplicative, wasteful, and could lead to decisions that negatively impact the environment and other sensitive areas.

Thus, we strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

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