



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 1, 2016  
Commerce Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**House Bill No. 5425 (Raised) – AA AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised House Bill No. 5425 – AA AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports this proposal as it recognizes that Connecticut has become a national leader in the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields, with innovative liability relief programs including the municipal liability relief program (general statute Section 22a-133ii, the Abandoned Brownfields Cleanup Program (general statute Section 32-768), and the Brownfields Remediation and Revitalization Program (general statute Section 32-769). Since fiscal year 2012, Connecticut has also invested more than \$139 million in brownfields redevelopment. Every \$1 that the State has invested during that period has attracted \$4.99 in investment from non- state partners, predominantly from private investors.

This proposal would add another tool to the liability relief programs and financing that Connecticut is successfully using to promote the redevelopment of brownfields. The proposal would allow non- profit brownfields land banks to be created and to be certified by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Brownfields land banks would acquire, remediate, and transfer brownfield properties on behalf of municipalities within the areas the land banks serve. The proposal would also make brownfields land banks eligible for grants from the Department of Economic and Community Development and for the protections available to municipalities under the liability relief programs administered by the Departments of Economic & Community Development and Energy & Environmental Protection.

Brownfields land banks would make the existing liability relief and financing programs for brownfields more effective in several ways. Brownfields land banks would be able to acquire multiple brownfields properties that may be too small or otherwise unsuitable by themselves for redevelopment and

aggregate those properties into larger parcels that that better meet the current needs of the community. Brownfields land banks would also be able to acquire, remediate, and transfer brownfields on behalf of municipalities that are unable to do so in their own right. Brownfields land banks would also be able to work with brownfields that are located in multiple municipalities. Finally, brownfields land banks could provide specialized expertise to municipalities that lack in- house expertise in brownfields redevelopment.

In summary, DEEP supports House Bill No. 5425 – AA AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS and looks forward to working with the Committee to find creative ways to get properties in Connecticut back into productive use.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov) .