

Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce**Legislative Committee**

Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

H.B. No. 5150 - AN ACT CONCERNING TREE WARDENS' NOTICES ON TREES AND SHRUBS PRIOR TO REMOVAL, TREE REMOVAL ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS AND CLEAN-UP BY PUBLIC UTILITY CORPORATIONS FOLLOWING CERTAIN TREE REMOVAL.

Members of the Environment Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is submitting testimony today in opposition to H.B. No. 5150. While we can all appreciate and respect the fact that the state puts a high priority on the preservation of trees and shrubs, this particular bill goes too far. If this bill were to become law, it would put a major burden on local Tree Wardens around Connecticut, and would have an overall negative impact on energy reliability in our state.

The language of this bill would require a posting on each tree, shrub, or group of shrubs for which a trimming permit is sought, and would require a public hearing if any person, firm or corporation objects to the proposed cutting or removal, in whole or in part. This is harmful to the process of vegetation management, would cost significant amounts of time and money, and again, would have a negative impact on reliability in Connecticut.

There is no question that falling trees or parts of trees cause power outages throughout Connecticut. The state already has a comprehensive and effective plan in place to address tree trimming, and the economic resilience of Connecticut depends on reliable energy infrastructure and getting the power back on in short order after an outage. This bill runs counter to this important point, and our chamber respectfully opposes it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important topic.