



**Testimony of Eric Brown
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Connecticut Business & Industry Association
before the
Environment Committee
March 11, 2016**

**RE: H.B. No. 5579 AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING RESILIENCY AND THE GOVERNOR'S
COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

CBIA opposes section 3 of this bill

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as counsel on environmental, energy and regulatory policy for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association ("CBIA"). CBIA is proud to represent thousands of small and large businesses throughout Connecticut, employing hundreds of thousands of Connecticut citizens.

Less than one year ago, Governor Malloy signed Executive Order No. 46 creating "The Governor's Council on Climate Change". The order charged the Council with:

- a. examining the efficacy of existing policies and regulations designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- b. identifying new strategies to meet the established emission reduction targets;
- c. establishing interim goals that, if met, will ensure that the state will achieve the 2050 target; and most importantly,
- d. reporting its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Office of Policy and Management no later than January 1, 2016.

The Governor's council has yet to complete its examination of the efficacy of existing policies and its identification of new strategies. And it has not presented the report specified in the Executive Order.

Nevertheless, we now have a bill appear that, unlike the original climate change legislation where the legislature established greenhouse reduction goals for 2020 and 2050, would vest the commissioner with the authority to establish a 2030 goal with no legislative or public discussion – and he is to do so in less than 2 months after the conclusion of this legislative session.

In our view, this is a blatant and misguided attempt to bypass legislative and public debate on a new interim goal and it should be rejected out of hand.

Accordingly, CBIA opposes section 3 of proposed bill 5579.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration of our comments.