STATE OF CONNECTICUT

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Testimony

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 11, 2016

House Bill No. 5579 An Act Concerning Building Resiliency and the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Ranking Members, and members of the Environment Committee, the Insurance Department appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on **House Bill No. 5579 An Act Concerning Building Resiliency and the Governor's Council on Climate Change.**

The intent of this bill is to improve the resiliency of homes and other buildings in Connecticut in response to the increase in severe storms and weather that the state has experienced over the past few years. This would enhance the building code to ensure that buildings are designed to be more resilient in response to damage from intense winds, flooding, and other severe weather.

As a consumer protection agency, the Department appreciates the intent of this bill and is currently working with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Administrative Services to achieve these goals without a statutory change.

The Department thanks the Environment Committee Chairs and members for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 5579.

About the Connecticut Insurance Department: The mission of the Connecticut Insurance Department is to protect consumers through regulation of the industry, outreach, education and advocacy. The Department recovers an average of more than $4 million yearly on behalf of consumers and regulates the industry by ensuring carriers adhere to state insurance laws and regulations and are financially solvent to pay claims. The Department's annual budget is funded through assessments from the insurance industry. For every dollar of direct expense, the Department brings in about $7.45 to the state in revenues. Each year, the Department returns more than $215 million in assessments, fees and penalties to the state's General Fund.