



**Testimony of Eric Brown
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Connecticut Business & Industry Association
before the
Environment Committee
March 4, 2016**

RE: S.B. No. 233 AN ACT CONCERNING A REDUCTION OF CONSUMER-BASED PACKAGING MATERIALS.

CBIA urges substantial changes to 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.

CBIA appreciates the efforts of this Committee and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to reduce a variety of waste streams. These efforts are most successful when the nature and extent of the wastes in question, as well as their actual and potential value as a commodity in the marketplace, are fully understood.

For example, questions that need to be researched include:

- What is the composition of the various materials that make up this waste stream?
- To what extent are these materials recyclable?
- To what extent are they being recycled?
- What is the current market for these materials as commodities?
- To what extent are producers of these materials moving towards source reduction?
- To what extent are Connecticut manufacturers using consumer packaging to ship their products?
- What options do those manufacturers have for using alternative packaging materials and what are the costs involved?
- What are companies currently producing or using consumer packaging materials doing in terms of reducing quantities, reusing product and recycling these materials?

Once there is a more holistic understanding of the issue at hand, better informed policy options (which may include revisions to the state's Solid Waste Management Plan as contemplated in this bill) may be considered.

Accordingly, CBIA urges substantial changes to this bill, including the removal of references to DEEP in favor of a charge the legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee to prepare a report responsive to the questions raised above as well as others that the committee may deem appropriate.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment and for your consideration of our testimony.