



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – March 2, 2016
Public Health Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Michael Sullivan

House Bill No. 5468 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING MAXIMUM DECIBEL LEVELS.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5468 – AN ACT CONCERNING MAXIMUM DECIBEL LEVELS**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP appreciates the need to protect citizens from excessive noise that may pose a risk to hearing; however DEEP has concerns regarding this preliminary proposal and welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

This proposal makes changes to Section 22a-69 of the general statutes to expand authority for noise control to “movie theaters” and “entertainment venues” and requires regulated venues to post notice warning patrons of possible negative effects due to noise levels. The posted notices are required to direct patrons to DEEP for any noise complaints.

DEEP is not the appropriate agency to regulate indoor noise. DEEP’s noise authority and adopted regulations regulate “environmental noise,” “ambient noise” and “major stationary sources of noise when measured from beyond the property line.” Occupational noise exposure is regulated by the United States Department of Labor under the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#). DEEP has neither the resources, expertise, nor staff to adopt and enforce indoor noise quality standards. Additionally, DEEP has concerns that key terms, such as “entertainment venue,” are undefined therefore making it unclear as to who or how many regulated entities would fall under the requirements of this proposal.

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 or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov .