

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

I write to ask the Committee to support HB 05103, "An Act Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law," for the following reasons:

* Environmental racism is an ongoing legacy in our state, one example of which is the aging trash incinerator and adjacent recycling center in Hartford. Pollution from the incinerator, along with diesel emissions from the trucks bringing trash and recyclables to Hartford from 70 different communities, continue to have a disproportionate impact on the air quality in Hartford's minority and low-income neighborhoods, leading to significantly higher rates of asthma and other respiratory problems in these neighborhoods.

* While Connecticut's original environmental justice legislation enacted in 2008 has made progress in addressing the health consequences of environmental racism, HB 05103 would strengthen the language and expand the scope of the 2008 environmental justice law, in order to provide more opportunity for public participation and greater protections for environmental justice communities.

Respectfully yours,

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