

Co-Chairs, Environment Committee

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Environment Committee Members

Re: SUPPORT HB 5103 An Act for Evaluation of State's Environmental Justice Law

From: Testimony of Diane Lauricella, Environmental Justice Advocate, Norwalk CT

I support a long-needed effort to evaluate Connecticut's Environmental Justice Law in addition to serious consideration about how to more effectively and fairly administer its provisions, both the INTENT as well as the LETTER, of the law.

I cannot attend the Public Hearing on Friday, but want to offer some brief advice and stand ready to help going forward.

I echo and agree with the Testimony of CTLCV's Alex Rodriguez, CCE Louis Rosado, and Audubon's request to update and provide better implementation for the Communities covered by this law.

I have assisted EJ Communities in both Norwalk and Bridgeport in terms of finding ways to inform and communicate about how the EJ Law should work, but have found it comes up short in terms of the role the site owner plays as well as a need for written accountability on the part of the CTDEEP in order to collect data and adjust the administration.

In addition to the proposed bill, please again consider modification of the list of "qualifying" land uses and include and add CONTRACTOR YARDS to the list.

Sincerely

Diane Lauricella

Norwalk CT