



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE RON NAPOLI
SEVENTY THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

PHONE: 860-240-8585/1-800-842-8267
E-MAIL: Ron.Napoli@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of HB 5103
AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LAW

Committee Co-Chairs Senator Cohen & Representative Demicco, Vice Chairs Senator Kushner & Representative Gresko, Ranking Members Senator Miner & Representative Harding, and all other distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

I come before you today to testify in support of HB 5103 AA Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law.

I represent the great City of Waterbury. We have an extensive industrial history and were the leading center in the United States for the manufacture of brassware – hence the nickname "Brass City". We also were known for manufacturing watches and clocks.

That great industrial history may have provided many of our citizens with good jobs, but that may have also come at the cost of our health. We are the 2nd highest rated Distressed Community for 2019, also making us one of the top distressed Environmental Justice communities. We are one of the top 4 cities with the highest rates of asthma-related ER visits in the state. The citizens in Waterbury today are experiencing environmental impacts caused by past decisions that they had no say in. We need to make sure the people affected most by our decisions today are aware of the future consequences.

My constituents deserve the protections that HB 5103 would put into place. It would make it mandatory for the community to be notified and informed about any potential health impacts before developers get any approval to move forward. This helps empower those who have been the most effected by poor decisions in the past and would help them be more invested in their community today.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this legislative body, and I urge you to support HB 5103.