

Dear Environment Committee member,

Environmental injustices are a national problem, and our state is no exception. Connecticut's less prosperous neighborhoods face unfair pollution and public health threats.

For example, the combined asthma hospitalization rate for Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury is 3.4 times greater than for the rest of the state.

In 2008, Connecticut passed its first environmental justice legislation into law. It recognized the unjustly frequent placement of power plants, sewage treatment plants, waste incinerators, and landfills near low-income communities and communities of color. These toxic sites spew pollution into overburdened neighborhoods and cause disproportionately high rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases.

We must strengthen these laws with HB 5103, An Act Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law:

- HB 5103 changes existing law from a voluntary to a mandatory requirement for polluting facility developers to conduct public engagement activities like notifying neighborhood and environmental groups of their plans in writing.
- HB 5103 adds a new clause to invalidate any application for a new power plant etc. if the applicant does not abide by the stated rules of public participation.
- HB 5103 proposes creation of a wellness clinic, ongoing asthma screening, air monitoring performed by a licensed environmental professional, an ongoing traffic study and watercourse monitoring.

Please support HB5103.

Sincerely,

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