



Testimony of Pete Myers

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Before the Environment Committee, Hartford, CT

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Testifying in Opposition to HB 5156

Senator Lopes, Representative Parker, Representative Callahan, Senator Harding, and members of the Committee.

I am Pete Myers, Senior Policy Director at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, representing thousands of member companies, large and small, across a diverse range of industries. Ninety percent of our members are small businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

CBIA respectfully **opposes HB 5156** due to the significant economic costs it would impose on Connecticut businesses, residents, and communities.

Increased Energy Costs for Employers

CBIA is concerned that the costs created by this bill will not remain with the targeted industry. These costs will be passed through the energy supply chain and ultimately show up as higher electricity, heating, and fuel costs for Connecticut employers and residents.

As this committee is aware Connecticut ranks as one of the most expensive states in the nation for commercial and industrial energy users. As of November of 2025, Industrial rates were 110% higher than the rest of the nation. This legislation moves in the wrong direction by adding a new, large cost burden to an energy grid that remains reliant for electric generation.

Impact on Small Businesses

While the bill targets large fossil fuel producers, small and medium-sized businesses will bear much of the real-world impact. These employers lack the ability to absorb rising costs and will face higher operating expenses that reduce competitiveness, slow hiring, and raise prices for consumers.

CBIA is pleased to support solutions to reduce barriers to capital and to allow for greater investment into resiliency measures for businesses. We encourage the committee to examine legislation to expand the C-PACE lending program through the Connecticut Green Bank as a practical, market-based tool that provides additional private capital for resilience and energy-efficiency investments. The business community also supports the creation of a disaster savings account to provide a tax benefit to employers who proactively invest in resiliency and emergency preparedness. These approaches encourage preparedness, leverage private investment, and allow for businesses to make resiliency investments at their facilities.

Legal Uncertainty

Connecticut Business & Industry Association

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Similar climate superfund laws enacted in Vermont and New York are currently being challenged in federal court, raising concerns about federal preemption, retroactive liability, and interstate commerce. This legal uncertainty poses additional risk for Connecticut businesses at a time when certainty is needed.

CBIA respectfully urges the Committee to reject HB 5156. This legislation would increase already high energy costs, disproportionately harm small businesses, and undermine Connecticut's economic competitiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.