



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Hartley and Rep. Meskers, and Distinguished Members of the Commerce Committee; and Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee.

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

Re: Proposed Senate Bill 1404 - An Act Concerning Conforming Adjustments to Support the Transition to a Release-Based Cleanup Program

Proposed Senate Bill 1351 - An Act Concerning Release-Based Cleanup Remediation Standards in Lieu of the Transfer Act

Proposed House Bill 7085 - An Act Concerning a Review of the Release-Based Cleanup Program and Related Regulations

The Council **SUPPORTS** the provisions of proposed Senate Bill 1404 and proposed Senate Bill 1351 that would enable the transition to the proposed Release-Based Cleanup Program and Related Regulations to address the clean-up/remediation of releases to the land and waters of the state in a timely manner, which, in turn, should enhance public health and safety and bolster economic development. The Council believes that the proposed Release-Based Cleanup Program represents a vast improvement over the Transfer Act and achieves an important balance between protecting the environment, looking out for the public interest, and facilitating economic development in the State.

The Council notes that the proposed Release-Based Cleanup Program and Related Regulations are technically complex, extensive, and constitute a major shift in Connecticut's approach to cleaning up/remediating releases. While stakeholder feedback and engagement are important, the Council recommends that proposed House Bill 7085 be refined to include an assessment of education and outreach efforts regarding the reporting and remediation provisions of the proposed Release-Based Cleanup Program and Related Regulations.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta, Executive Director