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Testimony of Phil Sherwood Before The GAE Committee, Feb. 14th 2005

The Connecticut Citizen Action Group is CT's oldest and largest public interest group. We are now approaching 35th year and currently have approximately 30,000 member families in CCAG. I would like to comment on a few bills that are being heard today.

Voter-Verified Paper Trails-SB55:

CCAG would first like to express our organizational support for SB55. We're now moving towards new technologies that have the opportunity not only to be accessible to all voters but will also provide safeguards for the actual vote. SB55 will ensure that electronic voting machines will have a voter-verified paper trail. This will help verify to the voter their intent during voting and provides a paper trail for any potential recount.

As we know HAVA requires that choices be made that will affect how citizens vote for years to come. Having a voter-verified paper trail will also instill confidence that the voting system they are using is trustworthy. Citizen confidence in this new technology is particularly important given the many different and often complicated technologies available to us to vote with.

Voter Rights Restoration-PB5666:

CCAG applauds the legislative efforts of this committee and the General Assembly that restored voting rights of convicted felons on probation in 2001. 5666 will improve the restoration process by removing unnecessary processes that, now in place, undermine the intents of the 2001 voting rights bill.

Training for Poll Workers-PB5662:

Poll workers are armed with an awesome responsibility of administering elections. It's important that increased training is provided for those who will be working the polls on Election Day. Providing this training will ensure that elections are administered more uniformly and will prevent voter disenfranchisement.

Voter Guide for State Elections-PB5667:

CCAG supports the establishment of a voter guide for state elections. This has the potential of serving as an important empowering educational tool for the public to learn more about the states electoral and political process.

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