

February 12, 2009

**To:** Co-chairmen Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy  
and Members of the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General  
Assembly

**Re:** Proposed Bill No.5476

We are registered voters who reside year-round at 45 Front Street, Noank, CT 06340, and are writing in support of proposed bill No. 5476, limiting the speed of powered vessels in the waters near our home and stipulating a fine for those boaters exceeding the proposed speed limit.

We are avid sailors and kayakers and, from May through October, spend three to five days per week boating on the waters described in the proposed bill. We own a fourteen-foot antique open catboat as well as single and tandem kayaks. While using these vessels recreationally in the aforementioned waters, we are regularly dismayed by the excessive speed of many powerboats and by the apparent ignorance of their operators as to the effect that their boats' wakes have on small vessels such as ours. All too often, we are buffeted about by the wave action created by powerboats moving at excessive speeds through these crowded waters, spoiling our boating experiences and threatening our safety and that of our vessels. They often give us a friendly wave while we are trying to avoid being swamped. We have gotten to the point that we are reluctant to sail or kayak on weekends.

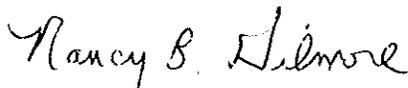
In closing, we respectfully urge you to take appropriate action on proposed bill No. 5476, thereby making recreational boating safer and more enjoyable for everyone who navigates these waters.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William M Gilmore



Nancy B Gilmore