



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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#### Testimony

Representative Thomas J. Drew  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 26, 2009

### HB 6461 "AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION"

Chairwoman Prague, Chairman Ryan and Honorable Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, I wish to express my strong support for House Bill No. 6461, and I would like to thank the chairs and committee members for bringing this proposal forward for a public hearing.

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine, Stephen Demetri. Unfortunately, Mr. Demetri is unable to attend today's hearing because he recently had surgery so I am speaking on his behalf. Stephen was the plant manager of the West Side Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bridgeport, he was injured on the job in November of 2004. He was released for full duty in July of 2006 by the Workers Compensation Commission. He got a job with the Town of Stratford in June 2007. His certification however, as a Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator expired because of the existing DEP regulation that automatically terminates one's certification if they do not work in the field for 2 consecutive years. DEP is extremely ridged in how they have applied this 2 year rule, even in cases such as this, when an employee is unable to work because of injury severe enough to be covered under Workman's Compensation. Indeed, working during this time would have violated the workman's compensation law. This situation is both unfair and counterproductive public policy. He is requesting that his certification be reactivated due to the fact that he was out on workers comp and could not work.

I believe that it is bad public policy to not allow for exemptions, especially in this case with workman's compensation. I respectfully request that you give this bill a Joint Favorable Report.

In closing, I would like to thank you for considering this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.