

# CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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February 26, 2009

Commerce Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Raised Bill No. 6506 A Streamlining the Permit Approval Process**

Chairmen LeBeau and Berger;

Distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, the Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) urges you to lend your support to **Raised Bill No. 6506 A Streamlining the Permit Approval Process**.

The Recreational Marine Industry in Connecticut has over 450 businesses and employs 10,000 hard working people and every business and every employee has felt the impacts of this disturbing economy. Any increase in costs for any marine project at this time is unwarranted and unnecessary and the permit process is one of those significant cost centers.

- Any changes made to the permit process should be of a voluntary nature and not forcing additional burdens on the applicant. This bill is just that, voluntary.
- Any process that embraces a preapplication process must be timely (max 45 days after the request) and be without additional costs to the applicant.
- There must be a substantive report or product generated by this preapplication meeting and a report prepared by the met with agency, commission, or department will provide such a report to the applicant.
- Preapplication meetings must be for informational purposes, nonbinding and specifically for the exploratory uses of the participants while they try to find a process or method that will be successful in meeting the goals of the project. Information disclosed during the early meeting should not give rise to any cause of action against any applicant.
- Any information uncovered during such a preapplication meeting must be held confidential and shielded from any requests for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.
- An economic development review of such applications should have a universal guideline structure to ensure all applicants receive a fair project analysis by the State.

We urge you to support **Raised Bill No. 6506 A Streamlining the Permit Approval Process**. This bill, as written, will bring some small relief to the permitting processes and let applicants know where they stand in a confidential manner. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and please know that we are available to discuss this at any time.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson  
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson  
Executive Director

Linda A. Kowalski  
The Kowalski Group