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*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2009*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5809, An Act Renaming the State's Shellfish Research Vessel, the "John H. Volk".

This proposal would, quite appropriately, name the Department of Agriculture's research vessel that is dedicated to the research and survey of shellfish in Long Island Sound, the John H. Volk.

John Volk was a hard-working, dedicated state employee who truly loved his work as director of the Bureau of Aquaculture for 21 years. John provided invaluable assistance and advocacy in promoting Long Island Sound. His work on the Atlantic States Marine fisheries Commission and the Long Island Sound Advisory Board brought a strong voice for protecting the sensitive environment and ecology of the Sound while promoting its industries, most notably shellfish.

During his life, John received many honors for his work and passion on behalf of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. It is, without doubt, most appropriate that the state of Connecticut continuously recognize and respect his contributions through the naming of our shellfish research vessel, the "John H. Volk".

I strongly urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5809.