

February 13, 2009

Senator Ed Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chair
Members of the Environment Committee

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5809 An Act Renaming The State Shellfish Research Vessel
the "JOHN H. VOLK".

Quite a few years ago, when I first began my affiliation with the CT Seafood Council, I met a gentleman who was the director of the Bureau of Aquaculture in Milford. He became my mentor, my advisor, and my source of knowledge about the shellfish industry.

My family had been in the wholesale/retail seafood business for many years and I knew quite a bit about selling fish – but it was John H. Volk who taught me so much about the source of shellfish, the rules governing the safety of Connecticut's product, and the awesome life of shellfishermen. John and I became close friends; we spoke daily and shared our hopes and dreams for the industry we both loved. We also shared the monumental effort of attempting to stop the Cross Sound Cable and later, the Islander East project.

John's untimely death from a malignant brain tumor left a huge void in our industry and in the lives of those of us who worked so closely with him. John was a man of not only incredible knowledge and good judgement but of unshakable integrity. He was a role model for everyone in state government.

No one has ever done more for the shellfish industry than John. He loved his work at the Bureau of Aquaculture and it was apparent in everything he did to promote and protect his beloved industry.

Naming of the state research vessel after John would be a wonderful way to honor his memory.

Please support legislation to re-name the state vessel the "JOHN H., VOLK".

Thank you.



Barbara Gordon,
Executive Director
CT Seafood Council