

20 Rolling Green
Granby, CT 06035

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Members of the Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

RE: Proposed Bill No. 5809: ***AN ACT RENAMING THE STATE'S
SHELLFISH RESEARCH VESSEL THE "JOHN H. VOLK".***

In the Spring of 1983, before the state budget was passed, I carried a letter to a boat builder in Warren, Rhode Island. It was from Janet Polinski and Mark Powers, who were the co-chairs of the Appropriations Subcommittee concerning Conservation and Development. The letter stated that the General Assembly would include in its budget \$100,000 to purchase a vessel for the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Agriculture.

On the strength of the letter, the boat builder readied the boat for John Volk and his dedicated staff at Milford, CT. Over the ensuing years, the Yankee Oyster enabled the Aquaculture Division to survey and monitor the health of the State's oyster beds.

John Volk bestowed an honor on me for my help in lobbying the Legislature to accomplish the purchase of the Yankee Oyster. I am the proud recipient of a "Golden Oyster." It was John's way of recognizing people who helped the State Aquaculture Division. He would dip an oyster in gold paint and affix it to a plaque, and add an appropriate engraving.

I write in support of renaming the research vessel the John H. Volk, in honor of a man who was a fine public servant who worked with dedication for the health of Long Island Sound and in support of the people who make their living on its waters. His ability to shape public policy and carry out programs beneficial to the Sound was immense. He was a true leader, a kind hearted man, and is very deserving of this posthumous honor.

Sincerely,



Mary Goodhouse