

# MYSTIC SEAFOOD, LLC

Plant Address: 145 Pearl Street, Noank, CT 06340  
Business Office: 305-1 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371  
Fax: 860.572.2924

---

Chairman Meyer  
Chairman Roy  
Members of the Environmental Committee  
Connecticut Legislature

February 17, 2009

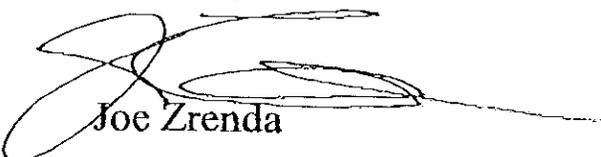
RE: Governor's Bill No. 6371 Section 72

Please be advised that I am writing to oppose the addition of Section 72 of the governors bill. This section proposes that harvesters of shellfish pay a fee of \$1.00 per bag or bushel of shellfish caught. This equals a tax of approximately 5 percent, with the average bushel of clams selling for \$16.00. We already pay a fee to lease grounds from the state.

Needless to say the fishing industry is struggling as it is. I know the State needs to raise funds, but this will serve as a devastating blow to the industry. We are just trying to keep our heads above water. I believe there are other profitable industries which could handle an increase of their fees instead. How many billions of dollars did Exxon-Mobil earn, and you choose to pick on the small fishermen? We lost a boat, and the big insurance company refuses our claim. How about taxing them more for taking our premiums, but refusing to pay when a legitimate claim is made.

Please reconsider this section.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Zrenda

---

Joe Zrenda  
860.227.8608

Ed Bridgman  
860.460.2800

Jim Fritz  
860.334.9571