

I'm Peter Degregorio owner of Dee's Bait & Tackle retail store New Haven for over 53 years. In 2009 I sold 4,200 fishing Licenses + combination fishing/hunting licenses. Speaking on bill 207 LCO # 01162EMV I will be addressing you under three Hats.

1st

As a small business man, the increase in fishing and hunting licenses fees will be devastating to my business as well as the entire industry. I have already felt a decline in sales as a result of the increased license fees. How many small fishing tackle shops are you willing to let go out of business.

2nd

As a tax payer, what are you people thinking of? The fishing industry pumps millions of dollars into the state economy. It's economics' 101, elasticity of demand the more you charge the less you sell. Fewer fishermen equal less tax dollars coming in. With your short sightedness you are planting the seeds of a desert. The increased license fees are putting a barrier to new and economically charged participates. You're counting on \$4.3 million from increased fees which was calculated with the expectation of full participation; you're not going to get it. You spent \$4.3 million of which you won't get the full amount and it will cause a bigger deficit. Plus all the tax dollars that won't be generated by the people you stopped from fishing. For instance over 50% of the boats register in this state belong to fisherman. This is the kind of economics that has given us a state deficit.

3rd

As a human being, at what cost? Do you know how many children won't be able to go fishing now because of the increase as well as the socio economically challenged. It is unfair tax to poor people, many fish to feed their families. How many inner city kids will we take off the water and put back into the streets.

The rolling back of the fishing and hunting fee's will only work if you keep the marine licenses at \$10, as it is the \$10 fee is already a burden. Considering eight months ago it didn't cost anything to go salt water fishing. Salt water fishing has always been a low cost entry level sport for participation. A \$30 fee will devastate the sport, along with those who use fishing as a valuable food source, not to mention put me out of business.

Remember golfers tennis players, bicyclist and so on don't have to buy licenses to pursue their sports. You are singling out a select group to bare the entire states economic burden.

In 2009 my store sold over \$63,000 fishing and combo licenses and, collected over 10,000 in sales tax, another 8,000 for property taxes and so on.

Be fair, take a lesson from fishing and hunting clubs do a one time assessment for all the tax payers in the state and make it progressive. Lets say a \$5 tax for every \$50,000 in taxable income, so \$50,000 pays \$5, \$100,000 pays \$10 and so on a small amount for everyone rather than a large amount for only a few.

You are getting a second chance to correct a big mistake please do the right thing.

Agent Sales Report

AgentID: 3670 - DEE'S BAIT & TACKLE
 93 CLAY ST
 NEW HAVEN CT 06513

Sales From 12/1/2008 To 12/31/2009

Qty	Item	ItemFee
10	3 DAY INLAND FISHING LICENSE (NON-RESIDENT ONLY)	160.00
5	ALL WATERS SPORT FISHING AND FIREARMS HUNTING LICENSE	300.00
25	ANNUAL RESIDENT FIREARM LICENSE-AGE 65 PLUS	0.00
254	ANNUAL RESIDENT INLAND FISHING LICENSE-AGE 65 PLUS	0.00
-2	ANNUAL RESIDENT INLAND FISHING LICENSE-AGE 65 PLUS	0.00
237	ANNUAL RESIDENT OVER 65 FREE MARINE FISHING LICENSE	0.00
-2	ANNUAL RESIDENT OVER 65 FREE MARINE FISHING LICENSE	0.00
3	ANNUAL RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSE-AGE 65 PLUS	0.00
35	ARCHERY PERMIT DEER/SMALL GAME WITH DEER TAGS	1,260.00
-1	ARCHERY PERMIT DEER/SMALL GAME WITH DEER TAGS	-30.00
18	CT HIP PERMIT	50.00
7	FALL TURKEY FIREARMS PRIVATE LAND	28.00
240	FIREARMS HUNTING AND INLAND FISHING LICENSE	8,776.00
-2	FIREARMS HUNTING AND INLAND FISHING LICENSE	-84.00
1	FIREARMS HUNTING AND INLAND FISHING LICENSE (NR)	88.00
32	FIREARMS HUNTING LICENSE	658.00
-1	FIREARMS HUNTING LICENSE	-28.00
1820	INLAND FISHING LICENSE	36,560.00
-2	INLAND FISHING LICENSE	-40.00
3	INLAND FISHING LICENSE (NON-RESIDENT)	120.00
4	JUNIOR FIREARMS HUNTING LICENSE	12.00
13	MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION STAMP (AKA DUCK STAMP)	160.00
13	MUZZLELOADER DEER PRIVATE LAND	268.00
-2	MUZZLELOADER DEER PRIVATE LAND	-56.00
9	MUZZLELOADER DEER STATE LAND	210.00
35	NON-RESIDENT MARINE FISHING LICENSE	525.00
9	PHEASANT TAGS	154.00
-1	PHEASANT TAGS	-14.00
1588	RESIDENT MARINE FISHING LICENSE	15,920.00
-17	RESIDENT MARINE FISHING LICENSE	-170.00
9	SHOTGUN DEER STATE LAND NO LOTTERY B	224.00
16	SHOTGUN RIFLE DEER PRIVATE LAND	350.00
9	SPRING TURKEY PRIVATE LAND FIREARMS/ARCHERY	126.00
7	SPRING TURKEY STATE LAND FIREARMS/ARCHERY	98.00
2	TRAPPING LICENSE	75.00

Net Sales: 63,698.00
Agent Retain Fee: 3,791.00
 Canceled Transactions: -422.00