

CONNECTICUT
MARITIME COALITION

9 March 2010

State Senator Donald DeFronzo
State Representative Antonio Guerrero
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Sirs,

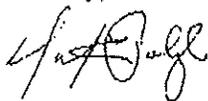
This letter is in regards to H.B. No. 5456 'AN ACT ELIMINATING REIMBURSEMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION AND THE CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION, AND PROVIDING STAFF SUPPORT TO THE CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION.'

We are opposed to eliminating reimbursement to members of the Connecticut Pilot Commission and the Connecticut Maritime Commission. The citizens that serve on these commissions deserve to have their authorized travel and expenses reimbursed. These Commissioners are for the most part from the business community, and their business knowledge is critical to the continued growth of the Connecticut maritime community and to the competitive advantage of the state. Connecticut should continue to work towards a more inclusive state government through these Commissions, and not penalize those Commission members that seek reimbursement for their authorized travel and expenses created from serving Connecticut's better good.

We also feel that singling out the Connecticut Pilot Commission and the Connecticut Maritime Commission, both put into place to encourage growth of the state's maritime businesses is unfair to the maritime industry and to the members who donate their time and energy for the betterment of the state.

We do agree that staff already supporting the Connecticut Pilot Commission should be accounted for in the Connecticut Department of Transportation budget.

Sincerely,



David E. Pohorylo
Chairman