



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – March 1, 2010  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella  
Department of Environmental Protection

## Proposed Raised Bill No. 5241- AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Proposed House Bill No. 5241- AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) supports this bill in principle, but urges the Committee to consider codifying the vessel length into statute rather than through the regulatory process as the bill directs.

The Department worked very closely with the Towns of Sherman, New Milford, Brookfield and New Fairfield, and the City of Danbury pursuant to Special Act 09-12, to establish common ground and identify concerns for boaters on Candlewood Lake. The Department has always been keenly aware of Candlewood Lake's unique importance in the state, but in keeping with the intent of Special Act 09-12, we undertook a re-evaluation of boating issues on the lake, resulting in recommendations submitted to the Environment Committee last month. These recommendations were based upon an analysis of data surrounding boater use of Candlewood Lake and discussions with the chief elected officials of the above-referenced communities.

As charged in the general statutes, the Department holds paramount the principle of uniform regulation on all waters of the state. However, in this instance, we are prepared to support a vessel length restriction on Candlewood Lake where an August 2009 survey found 110 of the 4,301 motorized boats on the lake were 26 feet or greater.

We are interested in working with the Environment Committee to codify Candlewood Lake's vessel length restriction into statute rather than regulation in order to expedite the implementation of this recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov).