



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN J. O'CONNOR  
THIRTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4114  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (860) 669-9430  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8595  
E-MAIL: Brian.OConnor@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2010

Thank you Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer, Ranking members and members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support for **SB-273 AAC The Discharge of Certain Vessel Washing Wastewaters**.

This legislation builds upon the memorandum of understanding the Department of Environmental Protection and the marina industry agreed to last year, which sought to facilitate compliance with the Clean Water Act. Included in the MOU was a consent order that gave marinas until December 2010 to install a vessel pressure washing treatment system if they wanted to perform this service in order to collect the wastewater and prevent the discharge from leaching into the ground or surface waters. The main element the Department is trying to eliminate and minimize is copper, which is the primary compound found in paint used on vessel bottoms.

For many marinas, the pressure washing treatment systems are expensive, particularly in this economic climate, and their effectiveness has been questioned as well. It is hard for many to justify investing in a treatment system that may not work to the standards the Department has established. This bill attempts to capitalize on the innovation in paints, which are moving away from using copper and instead are utilizing environmentally friendly compounds. It establishes a framework for marinas to apply and receive a permit to discharge bottom pressure washing wastewater to the ground or to surface water if a facility maintains a stormwater discharge permit and regularly meets the requirements of runoff water testing when using an environmentally friendly paint.

Creating an opportunity for marinas to comply with the Clean Water Act without having to install a pressure washing treatment system is a win-win situation for the environment, the industry and the State. In order to be effective, the permitting system must be universal, efficient and easy to navigate. SB-273 attempts to achieve this by utilizing the Department of Environmental Protection's existing permitting infrastructure. Ultimately, it will encourage the industry to adopt the use of environmentally friendly paints as a best management practice.

Again, I urge members of the Environment Committee to support **SB-273 AAC The Discharge of Certain Vessel Washing Wastewaters**. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brian J. O'Connor  
35<sup>th</sup> District