



**Town of
Greenwich
Conservation Commission**

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Denise Savageau
Conservation Director

February 14, 2011

To: Senator Steve Cassano, Co-chair Planning and Development
Representative Linda Gentile, Co-chair Planning and Development
Members Planning and Development Committee

From: Denise Savageau, Conservation Director

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5097
AN ACT CONCERNING STATUTORY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND
WETLANDS COMMISSION MEMBERS.

I am writing today in opposition of HB 5097. Although I wholeheartedly support training for all Inland Wetland Commission members and indeed have been involved as a trainer of Commissions since 1986, I cannot support this bill.

The bill is a backhanded attempt to discredit the work of volunteer IWWA members and to put a Commissions decision in legal question at the courts. It suggests that generally Commission members are uneducated about wetlands and the role that wetlands protection plays in land use in their municipalities. This is not an accurate representation of the hundreds of volunteers who serve municipalities as Inland Wetland Commissions.

Why is this being directed at IWWA members, why not P&Z, ZBA and other land use commissions?

Opponents of wetland protection laws often accuse IWWA requirements as having a negative impact on economic growth. This is not the case, indeed, IWWA that do their jobs protect land use values and save towns millions of dollars in storm water management fixes that often result from poor land use development practices.

I support legislation that increases funding for training efforts provided by CT DEP and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Please vote NO on HB 5097.