



Captain's ★ Cove ★ Seaport

on Historic Black Rock Harbor in Bridgeport, CT

ONE BOSTWICK AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605
TEL 203.335.1433 FAX 203.335.6793
N 41° 9.467 W 73° 12.841

Dear Commerce Committee Members,

My name is Bruce Williams. I am Vice President of Captain's Cove Seaport, located on Black Rock Harbor in Bridgeport. I am writing to express our strong support for **Raised Bill 220**.

Our marina is in the voluntary application process to become a "green marina". We are also proud to have been designated one of four state "public coastal access areas" by the Connecticut D.E.E.P.

Here at Captain's Cove Seaport, which was established in 1982, we currently have slip space for some 300 boats. The mean low water levels at our marine range from about 2 to 8 feet. Over the past 30 years there has been a gradual "silting in" in our slip spaces and the channels leading to those spaces.

Because of the decreasing m.l.w. levels, certain slips on the landward ends of our floats have become inaccessible at low tide, while those slips further out have become available only to boats with ever-decreasing drafts. Each year we turn away numerous potential customers due to the lack of deep water slips.

On our 25 and 90 ton 'Travelifts' we normally haul 250 boats a year for dry land winter storage. Due to silting conditions in our "lift-well" area we are only able to haul vessels with 6-7 foot drafts at high tide. At all other times of the tide it is too shallow for boats of this draft to enter the well. Once again we must turn away prospective customers due to depth restrictions.

I feel that our marina is somewhat unique that in addition to traditional marina operations (slip rental, hauling, repairs etc.) a large portion of our dock area is given over to moor historic vessels operated by non-profit groups. Among those vessels are the schooner "Unicorn", the 1891 oyster dredger "Laurel" and the "John E. Pfriem". The "Catherine Moore" a 56 foot research vessel operated by the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture School berths here and this spring we have donated dock space to Sacred Heart and Fairfield Universities to establish varsity sailing programs. Special events, also, are a major part of our operations. The St. Vincent's Hospital "Swim Across The Sound", the "Interclub Bluefish Contest" and the America's Cup 12 meter annual race are amount the many yearly community events held here. Our continued ability to accommodate and support these vessels, programs and events is critically dependent on maintaining viable water depths at our docks.

Once again, we would like to express our support for **RB220**. We heartily thank the committee for consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Bruce Williams
Captain's Cove Seaport