

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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Commerce Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **R.B. No. 220 AN ACT CONCERNING NAVIGATION, COASTAL ACCESS AND CLEAN MARINAS.**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and Distinguished Members;

The Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) and our membership urge you to support **R.B. No. 220 AN ACT CONCERNING NAVIGATION, COASTAL ACCESS AND CLEAN MARINAS**. This is a very simple bill that will create jobs and create an incentive for marine facilities to strive for a "Certified Clean Marina" designation in a program as a result of a 10 year partnership between the Recreational Marine Industry and the now Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

With an unprecedented cooperative program between these two groups, boundaries have been defined, goals set and voluntarily achieved by almost 30 marine facilities in Connecticut. Strict criteria has been developed and benchmarks set in dealing with all phases of boat handling, cleaning, repairs, storage, and fueling. Best management practices have been specifically defined to ensure that operating standards in these facilities are above and beyond regulatory compliance. Another 20 facilities have pledged to commit to become Certified Clean Marinas within 12 months of their pledge.

This bill would create a vehicle to comprehensively improve navigation in local waterways and specifically in private facilities and public waterfront access as well as create an immediate source of new jobs as dredging and marine contractors expand into this venue. As marine facilities become more available, useful, and attractive to larger vessels demanding greater services and resources, they will need to expand their workforce to meet that localized demand. It would also reinforce the commitments to become a Clean Marina and/or take the initial pledge to begin the work.

We urge you to support **R.B. No. 220 AN ACT CONCERNING NAVIGATION, COASTAL ACCESS AND CLEAN MARINAS**. It is an important addition to the Clean Marina process and ensures that an applicant can stay motivated and see another clear benefit to reaching the certification goal. It's a difficult and sometimes not inexpensive process to gain the Green Flag but the recognition and the added incentives can make the lengthy job seem much quicker. This is a revenue neutral bill and does not impact the general fund or departmental budgets, being funded by grant monies as the come available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues and please know that we are available to discuss them at any time.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
President

Linda A. Kowalski
The Kowalski Group