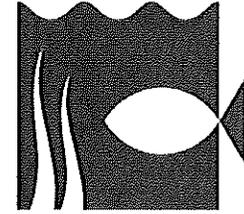


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**

**Testimony of Save the Sound
Before the Commerce Committee**



Save the Sound[®]
A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

In Support of
**RAISED BILL 220, AN ACT CONCERNING NAVIGATION,
COASTAL ACCESS AND CLEAN MARINAS**

Submitted by
Curt Johnson
Program Director and Senior Attorney
February 28, 2012

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, and members of the Committee,

Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, is a state wide organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of Long Island Sound and Connecticut's air and land. Our membership is approximately 3,700 families state-wide and we work with about 7,500 citizen activists state-wide. We pleased to have the opportunity to support Raised Bill 220, An Act Concerning Navigation, Coastal Access and Clean Marinas.

We strongly support the underlying theme of this bill, that establishes a cost-sharing program to help marinas certified by the Connecticut DEEP's Clean Marina Program apply for small grants to assist with dredging of the marinas' channels. In addition, we believe that continuing to provide navigability for small marinas provides important public access to thousands of citizens, allowing working people the opportunity to get out and celebrate and enjoy Long Island Sound

Currently, obtaining assistance for marina dredging projects is challenging. This means that many marinas cannot afford this costly work, so their channels gradually accumulate silt and can eventually become impassible to boats with deeper drafts. Sharing the cost will make dredging feasible for more marinas, thereby keeping those businesses open and profitable, as well as creating new jobs for engineers and local dredging contractors.

This bill will link significant support for dredging projects directly to a program that helps protect Long Island Sound. By tying the assistance to the Clean Marina Program, Raised Bill 220 encourages marinas and boatyards to use business practices that protect our water quality. The Clean Marina Program establishes a system of managing potentially toxic stormwater from marina facilities in a sustainable and environmentally clean manner. Connecticut's marinas are in a unique position to reduce water pollution from runoff of oils, soaps and waxes, as well as sewage, and to set an example for other shoreline businesses. In addition, they play an educational role, helping to raise awareness of sustainable boating practices among recreational and commercial boaters.

There are currently 29 certified Clean Marinas in Connecticut, and another 20 that have pledged to make the necessary changes to get certified. This cost-sharing program will reward their efforts, encourage them to maintain their commitment, and incentivize other marinas and boatyards to follow suit.

Please support this bill for the environmental, economic and recreational benefits it offers Connecticut's shoreline communities and Long Island Sound.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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