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February 28, 2012  
Representative Lonnie Reed  
Testimony before the Commerce Committee In Support of  
**RAISED BILL 220: AN ACT CONCERNING NAVIGATION, COASTAL ACCESS AND CLEAN MARINAS**

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Vice Chairs, Ranking members and all who serve on the Commerce Committee. My name is Representative Lonnie Reed of the 102<sup>nd</sup> District, Branford. Thank you for raising this bill. I am delighted to testify in support of SB 220.

This bill represents a common sense strategy designed to support and grow our marina businesses and create more maritime jobs while also incentivizing the safe disposal of paints, cleaning products, oils, waxes, fuels and other pollutants that too often wind up in Long Island Sound.

The bill provides smart, cooperative links between existing innovative programs and funding sources. The Clean Marinas program helps Marina operators learn how to run their businesses in the most environmentally responsible way possible and to earn a CleanMarina Certification for doing so. And the legislature, in its wisdom, has established a fund in the Department of Transportation that accepts applications for dredging small harbors that have become silted in and now pose a hazard to navigation. This bill proposes an innovative synergy between those two programs.

The bill represents one of many ideas, large and small, being shared in the Bi-State, Bi-Partisan Long Island Sound Caucus we have created with our New York Colleagues. We have been meeting on both sides of the Sound to share problems and experiences and to discuss ways that we can work together to pursue our mutual goals of clean beaches, clean water, robust recreational and commercial fishing and boating – all of the things that contribute to an environmentally safe and economically vibrant Long Island Sound.

During our discussions on large harbor dredging, many of our small marina owners asked us to please not forget them. They reminded us that they have had to lay off workers, due to silted in anchorages that forced boat owners to take their vessels elsewhere, including Rhode Island. We heard from several marina owners who were forced to lay off as many as ten or fifteen employees.

So, in summary, this is a jobs bill, as well as an environmental bill to protect our region's most important and beloved natural resource. I support the concept and am eager to work together to resolve any issues in structure or language. Again, I thank the Commerce Committee for raising the bill and for this opportunity to testify.

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