

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

Submitted by
Richard F. Kral, Jr, Owner Beacon Point Marine
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Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, and members of the Committee,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on Raised Bill 220, An Act Concerning Navigation, Coastal Access and Clean Marinas.

I support this bill, which establishes a cost-sharing program that will help marinas certified by the Connecticut DEEP's Clean Marina Program apply for small grants to assist with dredging of the marinas channels.

Currently, obtaining assistance for marina dredging projects is exceptionally difficult. 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. 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.

I am an owner of a Clean Marina and also have obtained a 5 Star Certification for my dealership. It is important for local business to be able to encourage clean waterways while supporting recreation on the water. I am a boater and support any programs for clean waterways and assisting small business to obtain this goal.

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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